# THE VALLEY FARMER.

A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, and Domestic Economy
Adapted to the wants of the people of the Mississippi Valley.

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THE
VALLEY FARMER.

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## THREE EXPERIMENTS IN CULTIVATION.

### 1.—FORTY ACRES CORN.

This was old corn land, which had, the previous year, under the *anti-book* system of farming, produced 25 to 30 bushels of corn and an indefinite quantity of weeds to the acre. Soil, a light loam, deep, with clay sub-soil.

The ground was plowed 14 inches deep, and furrows nine inches wide; harrowed and rolled; then drilled exactly north and south. Drills four feet apart, and planted 5 kernels in a place, two feet 6 inches apart. On the first hoeing all but three plants were removed from each hill.

On the 8th day of May 10 acres were planted with seed which had been soaked for 12 hours in a solution of three pounds of saltpetre and two of copperas. These ten acres yielded 85 bushels to the acre.

On the 10th of May, five acres were planted with seed which had been soaked 18 hours in the same solution. This yielded 92 bushels to the acre.

On the 15th and 16th of May 10 acres more were planted with seed soaked 24 hours in the same or a similar solution. The yield of this was 105 bushels to the acre.

The remaining 15 acres was not planted until the 5th of June, when it was planted with seed which had been steeped for 32 hours in a solution similar to that before mentioned. Many knowing ones predicted that this would be a *failure*—it would come to nothing. The result was that from these 15 acres was harvested 1,680 bushels of corn—or *one hundred and twelve bushels to the acre!*

Now about the after-culture. As soon as the plants were conveniently above ground the plows were set to work, followed by the hoes. This time a light plow was run as close to the plants as practicable [and being properly drilled, the rows were perfectly straight] and the earth turned *from* the plant. Then the men with hoes removed every remaining weed, and loosened and leveled the earth about the plants. This done a cultivator was run in the centre between the rows to level the ground, and give a finish to the weeds, which were showing themselves in legions.

As soon as the field was thus gone through, a second course was commenced. This plowing was the reverse of the first; a slight furrow was thrown *to* the plants, and again the men with hoes followed the plows, demolishing the weeds and drawing a small quantity of fresh earth to the plants. Again the cultivator was run between the rows as before.

By this time the weeds were pretty well mas-

tered, and now a big plow was brought into use, to which were attatched two powerful horses, placed one before the other. With this a deep furrow was thrown from the centre to the rows. In going through first, the land side of the plow was held a few inches past the middle between the rows, and on coming back the plow was run about two inches deeper, the land side again past the middle the other way. This time a man followed the plow to relieve any plants which might be borne down by the earth, and the work was done till harvest.

2.—THREE ACRES POTATOES.

This was upland, broken, soil much the same as the preceding. Had been in pasture for eight or ten years. The ground was broken up in the early part of March, as deep as the plow could be run; afterwards harrowed, rolled, and ridged; the ridges were then split with a deep running plow, and the potatoes dropped in the bottom of the furrow, eight inches apart. The potatoes were cut, so as to leave two good eyes to each set. Refuse straw, wet or dry, was now thrown over the potatoes, to the depth of several inches, and the whole deeply covered with the plow.

The rows were 32 inches apart.

As soon as the sprouts began to appear at the surface the field was cross-harrowed, and during the season cultivated much as the corn, mentioned in the first experiment—plowed three times and hoed twice.

In November the potatoes were gathered, the ridges being opened by the plow running twice through each row, a boy following the first time to pick up such potatoes as might fall back into the furrow, and be trodden upon by the horse as he returned. The potatoes were very large, and there was no disease among them. A large portion of them were brought to this market this spring, and sold for $1 10 per bushel. The yield was 510 bushels to the acre.

3.—CUCUMBERS—one fourth acre, less 8 square yards.

This was a part of the field on which the potatoes were grown, and was broken in the same manner, but previous to planting the turf was entirely torn to pieces by plowing and harrowing, the whole completely pulverised, and the grass, roots, weeds—every thing that ever had life—picked up and carried off. The cucumbers were then planted in—not elevated—hills 7 feet apart in the rows, and with the rows nine feet apart. The ground was kept mellow and free from weeds, and when the plants were a few inches high, forked stakes were driven into the ground on each side of the rows, about nine inches from the centre; these forks received a hickory pole, and were driven so as to elevate the pole nine inches above the ground. As the plants grew they were trained to fall over the poles, and then the leading runner was pinched off, with the fore finger and thumb nail; this caused the lateral shoots to push along and twine themselves around the poles. The cucumbers were carefully picked every day, at the proper size for pickling, and when a barrel was filled, brine made so strong as to bear up an egg was poured on enough to cover them, the barrel headed up and set in a cool, dry, cellar. Forty barrels of cucumber pickles were made from this piece of ground, which sold in this market for six dollars per barrel. It may be noted here that in gathering the cucumbers, they were not pulled from the vines, but the stem was carefully cut with a knife or a pair of scissors.

We are stating what has been represented to us by gentlemen on whose veracity we can rely, as actual facts, and statements of crops raised last season; and the reader will please to bear in mind a few instructions which may be deduced from them.

In the first place, these crops were raised in *Missouri*, on land no better than most farmers in this State, Iowa, or Illinois, cultivate, or say they do.

Except the straw thrown over the potatoes—and which was intended as a loosener, and not as a manure—*no manure* was applied in either case. There was no outlay for gypsum, lime, marl, poudrette, salt, ashes, or guanno. The result is attributable to two facts—and to nothing else—the ground was properly prepared and properly cultivated; and whoever adopts the same course may expect to obtain the same results.

One thing more we will mention: The course pursued in this case is exactly the one which we have all along inculcated in the VATLEY FARMER. The farmer who raised these crops is a constant reader of our paper, and assures us that he would not be without it if it cost him twenty dollars a year. He is, in very truth, a *book-farmer*, and carries on his whole business with as much system as any commercial business in the land. Some farmers here in the west think they know too much already to learn from any agricultural paper, and another class think they must get all their instructions from eastern periodicals—that no knowledge is of any value unless it comes

from Albany, New York, Philadelphia, or Boston. Of the first class we have littles hopes; they are "wiser in their own conceit than seven men that can render a reason;" and though you should bray them in a mortar, they would not be wise. But for the latter there is a better prospect, and after they have got their fingers well burned in trying experiments totally unfitted to our soil and climate, they will learn to place a just estimate upon publications especially designed to meet the condition of western farmers.

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## A TALK ABOUT THE PROFITS OF FARMING.

At a late meeting of the members of the Massachusetts Legislature for the discussion of agricultural topics, a parley was held about the profits of farming, during which some very wise and some rather foolish things were said; e. g.:

*Sensible.*—"Mr. Barrett, of Belchertown, said his business was farming, and he thought that by industry and economy, a farmer could provide himself with the comforts of life and gain property. But he must put his hand to the work, and not have too many play-days. Yet he need not work very hard, so that labor would be an evil. He was asked whether farmers were as liable to fail as other classes, and he replied that he had never known any farmer to fail, who paid proper attention to his business; but among merchants and manufacturers, failures were common. He had known farmers to buy land, run in debt for it, erect buildings, stock their farms, and succeed well. The farmer should not till a great deal of land. He must be a man of thought and reflection; he must adapt his crops to his soil, and keep the best of stock. The best kinds of grain should be cultivated, as this makes a great difference in the profit. He must also be a temperate man; and he named an instance of a farmer's failing for want of this virtue; and another failed who devoted his attention to swapping horses. As farmers are becoming more enlightened, they are more respected, and finally they will rule the country."

"Mr. A. G. Sheldon, of Wilmington, said that some others might make money faster than farmers, but where one became rich, 99 were poor. No class on the whole do better than farmers. Their business tends to equality in property."

*Not quite so much so.*—"Mr. Brooks, of Princeton, read statistics showing that there was more profit in raising grain for market, or making it into pork, in the eastern States, than in other sections of the country; and that only two or three cows could be kept with profit."

"Mr. H. C. Merriam, of Tewksbury, said all the profit made by farmers was not equal to the interest on the value of their farms. If they would sell their farms they could live better on the interest of their money. As to his own farming, his hands worked early and late, as is usual with those near a market, and yet he could not make his farm yield more than four per cent. on the capital invested."

*A Woman who was a good Husbandman.*—"Mr. Sheldon said he was pleased that one gentleman agreed with him that there was a profit in farming; and if those who did not find it profitable, would come to his town, he could show them a woman who could show them how to farm with profit. Her husband bought a farm and paid for it, lacking $600. His health was poor, and he died, leaving the farm in debt about $800. She had cleared off the mortgage, repaired the house, and educated the boys; and the farm would sell for 50 per cent. more than it cost."

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For the Valley Farmer.

Hannibal, Feb. 8, 1851.

Dear Sir,—For the benefit of the public I write the following receipe, and if you think it worthy of a place in your paper, persons who will try it will find it to their advantage:

The never-failing salve is made as follows:—Take yellow rosin, 4 ounces; common turpentine, 8 ounces; Bees wax, 4 ounces; Hog's lard, 8 ounces, and a table spoonful of honey. Melt all together, and when thoroughly dissolved take the vessel off the fire and let it cool a little, else it will flow over; then stir in an ounce of verdegris finely powdered, strain the whole through linen cloth and it is fit for use.

This ointment is used in the cure of all sorts of wounds in the human system, burns, scalds, &c., and has proved itself successful in the cure of ulcers of long standing.

It may also be used with success for the cure of saddle galds, and all sorts of sores which horses are subject to. It will not cost much to try it.

Respectfully yours, D. M.

**Wool.**—We clip the following from the Wheeling Argus:

The western Ohio papers say that the speculators are already in the field contracting for the next clip of wool. Wool has advanced 6 to 10 cents a pound, and ranges from 45 to 54 cents.

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☞ Rogues in rags are kept in countenance by rogues in ruffles.

## BARLEY.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Waverly, Lafayette Co., Mo., Feb. 18, 1851.

Mr. Editor:—Permit me to trouble you for a little information. I wish to know whether you think the culture of Barley in Mo. would be profitable or not? Which is most profitable, the Spring or the Fall variety? Can either variety be obtained at St. Louis? And if cultivated would there be at St. Louis a ready and prospectively, a constant market for it? It is thought by some that the Spring barley, like the spring wheat would be attended more or less by a failure, and thus present to the farmer a sad return for his industry, care and anxiety. I am not fully prepared to credit the utility of such analagous reasonings, not having experience in its culture. I think I should prefer the cultivation of barley to wheat, from the fact (if I am correctly informed) that is not only a surer crop but that it is less liable to be blown down, having a lower growth and firmer stalk. This is a great reason in its favor on account of the strong winds we are sometimes visited with on these prairies.

I ask for this information, Mr. Editor, as one who desires not to live to himself alone. I doubt not, but if the experiment is once fairly attested, and sucess and profit attend the expermiment, the cultivation of barley would recieve no small degree of attention in this state, even in this rich, hemp growing district.

Yours truly,

R. H. CREEL.

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The quantity of Barley consumed by the breweries of St. Louis, city and county, during the year 1850, amounted in round numbers to 168,000 bushels. Besides this, there is always an active demand for barley for shipment; so that we feel no hesitation in saying that there will be a ready market for all that can be grown, and we doubt not it will be found a profitable crop. As to the comparative value of fall and spring sowing, we cannot speak—our experience being entirely with spring culture. We should like to hear from any one who has tried the other mode. On ordinarily good ground, with proper cultivation, 40, 50 and in some instances as high as 60 bushels have been obtained to the acre.

The highest price paid for barley in 1850, was $1 20, the lowest 60 cents per bushel; averaging nearly the same as wheat, while the ordinary yield is considerably greater, and the expense per acre about the same.

The following article from Allen's American Farm Book may not be inappropriate in this connection:

Barley is a grain of extensive cultivation and great value. Like wheat and rye, it is both a winter and spring grain, though in this country, it is almost universally sown in the spring. There are six varieties, differing in no essential points, and all originating from the same source. Loudon says, in choosing for seed, "the best is that which is free from blackness at the tail, and is of a pale lively yellow intermixed with a a bright whitish cast; and if the rind be a little shrivelled, as it indicates thin skin. The husk of thick rined barley is too stiff to shrink, and will lie smooth and hollow, even when the flour is shrunk within. The necessity of a change of seed from time to time, for that grown in a different soil, is in no instance more evident than in this grain, which otherwise becomes coaser every successive year. But in this as in all other grain, the utmost care should be taken that the seed is full bodied."

*The principal varieties are the two and six rowed*; the last being prefered for hardiness and productiveness in Europe. The first is generally cultivated in this country; from its superior fullness and freedom from smut. These are numerous sub-varieties, such as the Hudson's Bay, which ripens very early and bears abundantly; the Chevalier and Providence, both accidental, of which stalk was first discovered among other of the ordinary kinds, and proving superior and of luxuriant growth, they were widely propagated; the Peruvian, Egyptian, and others. New varieties may be produced by crossing, as with wheat.

*Soil.*— Barley requires a lighter than will grow good wheat, and a heavier than will bear tolerable rye; but in all cases it must be one that is well drained. A mellow rich loam ranging between light sand and gravel, and heavy clay is best suited to it.

*Cultivation* —It may be sown as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry in the Spring, on a grass or a clover ley turned over the preceding fall; or it may follow a well-manured and cleanly-hoed crop. If sown on a sod, it should be lightly plowed in, but not so deep as to disrurb the sod, and afterwards harrowed or rolled. The soil must always be well pulverized. From 1 1-2 to 2 1-2 bushels is the usual allowance of seed, poor and mellow soils and early sown, requiring the least. Barley ought never to follow the other white grains, nor should they succeed each other unless upon very rich soil. No farmer

can long depart from this rule without serious detriment to his soil and crops. Barnyard manures must never be applied directly to grain, unless it be a light dressing of compost on indifferent soils; or in moderate quantity after the plants have commenced growing in spring. When the plants are four or five inches high, rolling will be of service if the ground is dry and not compact. This operation gives support to the roots, destroys insects, multiplies seed-stalks, and increases their vigor.

*Destroying weeds in Grain.*—When grain is infested with cockle, wild mustard or other weeds, they should be extirpated by hand before they are fairly in blossom. If neglected till sometime after this, the seed is so well matured as to ripen after pulling, and if then thrown upon the ground, they will defeat the effort for their removal. When too luxuriant, barley like rye, may be fed off for a few days, but not too closely.

The *Harvesting* of barley must be seasonably done. More caution is requisite in cutting it at the proper time, than is necessary to observe with any other grain; for if cut too late its extreme liability to shell will cause much waste, and it will shrivel, if cut before it is fully matured. It may be stacked like wheat.

*The uses of Barley* are various and important In Enrope it forms no inconsiderable part of the food of the inhabitants. The grain yields from 80 to 89 per cent of flour, which, however, conains but 6 per cent of gluten; 7 per being saccharine matter, and 79 mucilage of starch. It is inferior in nutriment to wheat or rye, but superior to oats. In this country, it is principally used for malting and brewing, and in some cases for distilling. When ground, it is more generally apropriated to swine, though sometimes used for other stock.

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## NOTES FOR THE MONTH.

April is so called from the Latin Aprils, which is derived from Aperire, to open. The allusion is obvious. The Saxons called it *Oster* or *Easter-monath*, from the feast of the goddess Eastre.

There is no period of greater activity, unless it be high harvest, than the month of April. Every farmer knows well the importance of being well up with the season, and he who lags behind at this important juncture, may as well withdraw from this particular "strife of life;" he has mistaken his profession.

The farmer is now busy in breaking up his corn ground. Indian corn has within a few years assumed increased value as a staple of our country, and the indications are that it will ever remain in foreign demand; those abroad who have either through ignorance or prejudice associated it with food unfit for man, have found out their error, and as it is now prefered to wheat, by the laboring population of the old world, it is difficult to prescribe limits to the demand. By the last report we are informed the total annual product of corn in the United States was a fraction short of four hundred and twenty-two millions of bushels; if the foreign demand continues to increase, we can increase the quantity, until it takes precedence of all other products, except wheat. To these two articles and the homely hog the western country is in a great measure indebted for its prosperity and rapid increase in wealth and population, and which reacting on the older settled portions, has given prosperity to all.

With good land, well prepared, well cultivated, and favorable seasons, a hundred bushels of corn may be grown on an acre; and under such concurring circumstances, no one ought to be satisfied with less, even in large fields, than an average product of fifty or sixty bushels on that quantity of land. And yet, how many there are, who plod on, cultivating poor exhausted soils in corn, lavishly expending their toil and sweat, who reap, as their reward, some twenty or thirty bushels to the acre! Why this is so, it is not our purpose to say; but it may in part arise from the fact, that men indulge in the ambition of having it said that their corn fields are *larger* than their neighbors, when they should be animated by that nobler ambition, of having their land in a higher state of fertility. Deep and careful plowing is just as essential to the successful growth of corn, as good soil; so luxuriant a plant, must be provided with ample pasturage for the spread and descent of its lateral and tap roots; the greater the degree of ease, and the fewer the obstructions, which it meets with, the more vigorous and healthful will be its onward course; provided you supply it with proper food in sufficient quantities. Its appetite being keen, and physical wants great, these must be consulted, or its product will be curtailed of much of its fair proportions. Consulting the wants of the corn plant, we deem it important, that the land should be, as we have stated above, plowed deep, and thoroughly pulverized by the harrow and roller. Give to it a deep and fine bed, keep the land cleanly worked afterwards, and unless the season be very inauspicious, your labors cannot fail to be crowned with a large crop of corn; for when well treated, it generously returns all favors bestowed.

Chills and Fever, and Bowel Complaints.—For a long, long time we were afflicted with the latter of these complaints, and during the past season we suffered much with the former. Having mentioned these facts as a sort of excuse for remissness in issuing the second volume of the Valley Farmer, an esteemed friend in the interior of the State whose judgment and veracity may be implicitly relied on, sent us the following receipes, which did not however come to hand until we had by the blessing of God so far recovered from our sickness as not to need them—but as it is quite likely that many of our readers may receive a visitation from one or both of these unwecome visitors, during the coming summer and autumn, we publish them for the benefit of all afflicted.

*For Chills and Fever*—and nothing else,—30 grains quinine and a tea spoonful pulverized rhubarb made into 60 pills; then, *when the chill is off*, take two every hour for 12 hours--and then one every two hours until the 60 are taken.

Our correspondent says, "This receipe I have never personally tried, but a cousin of my wife, a man with a large family, and whom I have known for 28 years as a man of truth, says to me—'Until I got this receipe I was in the habit of paying one or two hundred dollars yearly to physicians, who would stop the disease for a week or ten days —perhaps two weeks—but it would return again. This medicine kills it [the disease, not the patient] *stone* dead.' Had I *cause* to test this prescription I should confidently do so; but although I have lived here for 25 years not a case of chills has occurred in my family, numbering from twenty-five to thirty persons, black and white.

*For Chronic Diarrhœa, Incipient Cholera, Summer Complaint in children*, and diseases of this kind affecting the stomach and bowels:--Cognac brandy (best) 1 pint; pulverized aloes, ess. peppermint, laudanum, each one ounce; oil cinamon, one fourth ounce; nut-galls (pulverized) two in number; loaf sugar one pound; dewberry or blackberry brier root a large handful boiled in pure water—strained,—and again boiled down to one half pint. The sugar to be dissolved in the brier root, and then all put together and well shaken before taking. A tea spoonful for a child, or a table spoonful for an adult to be administered every hour or two as circumstances may require —"and it does not taste badly either," adds our correspondent, and then remarks:

"I made half a gallon of this last summer,—and keep it always on hand for the use of my family white and black, and have never known it to fail, when properly administered. In case you cannot get the B. B. root, add one more nutgall of medium size—two would not injure it. W. F. Birch, who went last spring (*via* Chagres) to California, made a bottle of this mixture on starting, and though not in need of it himself, during the trip, he had occasion to administer all of it —say a quart—to others, and it failed he says in no one instance to produce a perfect cure. He replenished his bottle at Panama. I merely mention this instance that you may see that its benefits are not confined to my own family."

## FLAX.

Pella, Iowa, Feb. 20, 1851.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Dear Sir,—From time to time people inquire here whether Flax would bring a good price in St. Louis, but I am at a loss to tell them. Your number 2, for February, contains an article about the *culture* of flax, but only in relation to the seed. Would you be so kind as to give in your first number an appendix to that article to tell your readers what *flax* is worth in St. Louis?

Is there a steady demand?

And the names of the principal dealers in the article?

As soon as the recent invention of *M. Claussen* is brought into general use it is to be supposed flax will be more generally used than it is now.

Yours, respectfully, A. E. D. B.

So far as we have been informed there is not at present much sale for the fibre in this city; though we presume any of our commission merchants would receive consignments of the article to be sold in other markets. Now that the public attention is turned so largely to the subject, it is not to be supposed that flax will not be manufactured much more extensively than formerly.

The alleged invention of M. Claussen, now makes considerable talk, and right glad shall we be if he is not disappointed in his expectations. But let us not place too much dependence upon it. If this should be the case, we may expect a great revolution in regard to this article, affecting some of the great interests of the country. The following article from the London Morning Chronicle will show the advances that are making in England:

The Preparation and Manufacture of Flax.—One of the greatest obsticles which has hitherto stood in the way of the extended cultivation of flax, viz: that of the trouble, delay, and expense attendant upon its steeping, in order to prepare it for market, has now been removed by an invention which entirely dispenses with that

process, and enables the grower at the smallest possible cost to send his fibre into the market. By this process, of which Mr. Donlan is the inventor, the results are obtained by a combination of chemical and mechanical means; and it avoids all the expenses connected with steeping; the fibre may be prepared at a cost considerably below that incurred in the present process, and may be made, we are assured, applicable either for fabrics of the coarseness of mail bags or canvass, or of the fineness of the most beautiful Brussels lace. But not only is the expense considerably less, but the time consumed in the preparation of the fibre, which, by the old process, ranges from ten days to three weeks, does not exceed as many hours by the unsteeped mode. It also possesses a vast superiority on account of the extreme simplicity of the means adopted, which can be intelligible to and performed by a mere child. But by far the most important and valuable part of the invention is, that it produces a fibre perfectly clean, and in its natural state, without any of the stains or impurities which necessarily attach themselves to the fibre during the process of steeping, and it also possesses the advantage of securing that regularity and uniformity of strength which to a greater or less extent is wanting in the steeped fibre.

Application has been made for a charter of incorporation for a company which will be prepared to purchase the flax produced upon 100,000 acres in Ireland, at £12 per acre, and to prepare it for the market in cases where the grower may not possess the necessary facilities for preparing it himself. The uniformity of strength and freedom from stain and impurities which exist in the flax prepared by the unsteeped process has, within the last four days, led to the practical demonstration of an invention, of the value and importance of which, to the agriculturer and manufacturer of this country, it is impossible to form any adequate idea, and which consists among other things, of the adaption of the flax fibre to cotton machinery. The patentee of this invention is M. Le Chevalier P. Claussen, member of the Brazilian Institute, well known as the inventor of the circular loom, and by his collection of objects of natural history and plants grown in America in the British Museum, and in the Museum of Paris. We stated on Monday last that we had placed in our hands a quantity of the rovings and yarn spun upon cotton machinery of the inventor. Since that period we had an opportunity of personally inspecting, at Manchester the whole process connected with the invention, and the result has fully convinced us of its practicability. The finest portion of the yarn spun, in our opinion—and we are confirmed in it by a gentleman of great experience and long connection with the cotton trade—was equal in fineness to 120's cotton, the coarsest being equal to 60's. The application of such a test as that of a 120's for the first time was certainly a most severe one. The result, however, was perfectly successful. A slight difficulty arose at first with the machinery, in consequence of the length of the fibre; this however was easily obvinted by a light alteration in one of the rollers. As the fire, however, may be prepared to any length, there will be no necessity in future for this alteration, the existing cotton machinery being perfectly adapted for the purpose of spinning flax prepared according to the process patented by M. Claussen for England, is for the preparation of flax in a short staple, so as to produce a substitute for wool and cotton capable of being spun upon cotton machinery, and also for the mixture of the materials thus obtained, which can be carded together with silk, cotton, or wool, or separately, as cotton for spinning yarns. The right is also secured for preparing long fibres as a substitute for silk, for bleaching in the preparation of materials for spinning and felting, and also in yarns and felts.

The inventor does not, however, confine himself to flax for the purpose of producing a fibre adto his purpose, but states that he can obtain similar results from hemp, jute, Chinese grass and to use his own expression, from "an old tar rope, or a bamboo cane." As the patents are not yet secured for several continental States, and some portions of the United Kingdom—for our absurd patent laws require that separate patents should be granted for each of the three kingdoms which form what is termed the United Kingdom we are not at liberty to state the nature of the process or the means adopted for the purpose of bringing the fibre into the required state. We may state, however, that from 1 1-4 cwt. of the flax fibre prepared and cleaned upon the unsteeped process, one cwt. of a substance identical with clean cotton, can be produced at a cost of material of less than half a crown. The cost of manual or mechanical labor required in its preparation, including the expense of bleaching, an operation performed in a few seconds, does not amount to more than 7-16th of a penny per pound. The mixture of the two substances, viz: wool with flax reduced to a short staple forms a fabric exceedingly durable, while its cost may be judged by the fact that while wool costs 4s. 6d., the flax and wool spun together in equal quantities, the cost would be reduced by nearly one half. Of the actual value of the invention, and of its practicability, the most convincing proof is to be found in the fact that a native of Holland, who has for several years directed his time and attention to the subject, and who has also succeeded in producing a fibre of the same quality and nature of M. Claussen, has been offered by the Dutch government the sum of £20,000 for his invention; which he refused—the sum demanded being £50,000. The negotiations are still pending, and the 17th instant is fixed upon as the day upon which a final answer is to be given by the Dutch government. We believe that on Wednesday a formal application was made by M. Claussen to the board of trade, requesting that machinery might be placed at his disposal, in order to enable him to produce at least one ton of yarn, and to make a series of experiments as to the best mode of adapting the fibre to the machinery; the experiments to be conducted in the presence of some impartial and well qualified person, to be selected by the government; and we have reason to believe that the application has been favorably received, although no answer has yet been given on the subject.

Sparta, Randolph Co., Ill., March, 17th, 1851.

Mr. E. Abbott,—*Dear Sir*: In your March number, , speaking of Wheeler's Treshing Machines you have used my name which you had a perfect right to do, but I should have preferred a little more explanation. I believe that I have threshed one hundred and fifty bushels of wheat n a day; but do not *positively* know it.

I did thresh 32 bushels of wheat in 35 minntes, and the stack had been wet by a very heavy rain the night previous. This can be *positively proven* by James Glen, School Commissioner of this county, and by Henry Clendenon his neighbor. There were others present who can also testify to the fact. Mr. Glen and Mr. Clendenon also stated to me, that they fully believed, had the straw been dry the machine would have thrashed a bushel per minute. The straw was of moderate size averaging perhaps 3 or 3¼ feet in length; as well as I can reccollect. Now suppose we could run (or thresh) 10 hours in a day, exclusive of stopping, and I know from personal experience, that it can be done, with four horses, we will have 540 bushels or upwards in the 10 hours. Perhaps Mr. Editor, you would be so kind as to figure it out exact. Please insert this in your next; and by so doing you will greatly oblige your friend and subscriber.

F. H. BEATTIE.

## WHEELER'S PATENT RAILWAY CHAIN HORSE POWER.

The principle of this machine is familiar to so many American farmers, that it may be interesting to them to know the value which is set upon it in Europe. In number 21 of Byrne's Dictionary of Mechanics and Engineering we find a drawing of a railway carriage, propelled by horse power, lately patented in Italy, and which is said to be now extensively used on the English Railways for drawing freight trains.

It will be evident by those who will take the trouble to examine, that this railway propeller is merely a reproduction of the Messrs. Wheeler's Power, patented by them in 1841, and which is now extensively used in this country for threshing and other purposes. The manner of constructing the chain, the friction rollers on which it moves, and the mode of applying the the power as exhibited in the drawing, are not only the same as in the American invention, but the forms and proportions of the integral parts are so nearly alike that it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the Italian patentee must have copied the Messrs. *Wheeler's* invention. At all events the principles and construction of the motive powers are the same in both, and the favor with which the machine has been received in England, as appears by a late article in the London News, is a flattering tribute to the genius of the American invention.

*Moore's Rural New Yorker.*

From the New England Farmer.

## PLANT THE BEST.

It should be an invarable rule with every cultivator to plant and sow the best varieties of vegetables. It costs no more to cultivate a valuable kind than a poor one. In nearly all the crops we cultivate, there are various kinds, possessing different qualities and properties, it is important that the farmer get the best kind that is adapted to his soil and situation.

In the beginning, a high price may be demanded for a valuable kind of grain, or other vegetable; but a small quantity may be purchased to begin with, and soon it will be so extended, that the extra cost will hardly be perceptible. Allowing that one dollar extra be paid for a half peck of superior grain. In two years it would probably produce 100 bushels; and thus the extra cost would be only one cent on a bushel, and, perhaps, far better than this, there might in consequence of the excellent variety, be ten per cent. added to the crop, which would pay ten or twenty times the amount of the extra cost, beside the superior value of the 100 bushels.

A great deal is said of the potato rot; and if nothing was said on the subject, every farmer would know the great destruction of crops and the heavy loss by this malady from his own experience and observation. Now every cultivater of this once valuable root should see what he could do by way of improvement. He should procure several varieties of what appear to be the best and most hardy against the disease. In this way, he may save about all his crop in common seasons of the rot; and when it is very severe, as was the case last year, he might save enough for his own use, and a surplus to sell at a high price. A mere trifle expended in this way will supply a farmer in

a short time with all the seed he needs for his farm.

We have many varieties of Indian corn. Some early, others late; some with large ears and large stalks, others with compact ears, small cobs, and fine fodder. Some varieties contain a large amount of oil, and are good for fattening;others abound in starch and are superior for some dishes of food. every farmer should procure the best kinds such as are well adapted to his climate and soil, and to the purposes for which he intends them.

In beets, carrots, onions, and parsneps; in squashes, pumpkins, in cucumbers and melons; finally, in almost every species of the extensive catalogue of vegetables there are varieties possessing different qualities. They differ in quality, production, earliness, &c.; and it is of great importance to select the best, regarding the adaption of the kind to the purposes of the particular objects of the cultivator.

The present is a suitable time for farmers to examine into this subject, and furnish themselves with the best seeds in due season, for soon will come the time for action, and will not be so convenient an opportunity to attend to this business.

## A THRIFTY PIG.

Many of our readers, perhaps will reccollect notices that we have given of a pig, belonging to Mr. John Smiley, of this city. Mr. Smiley has commenced a series of experiments which promise to be highly interesting and important to the pork raising community. He has carefully noted the amount of food consumed by this pig, and his increase in weight, at regular intervals of two weeks. Six weeks ago, January 4th, the pig weighed 278 1-2 lbs. Two weeks from that time he was weighed again, and had gained fifty-one pounds in fourteen days —averaging fourteen pounds and nine-fourteenths each day. His only food during this time was seventy-three quarts of boiled corn, which is a fraction over three quarts per day. During the two weeks ending February 1st, he gained fifty-two pounds. and had eaten seventy-one quarts of corn; prepared as before. For the two weeks ending on the 15th inst., he gained eighty-seven pounds—more than six pounds per day; and he consumed on an average, eight quarts and one pint of raw corn per day. During the last six weeks he has gained in weight one-hundred and ninety-one pounds, being an average of upwards of four and a half pounds per day. His drink is warm water, and he has had a supply of charcoal before him. The last time he was weighed, his weight was four hundred and sixty-nine pounds. Mr. Smiley, we believe, intends to test the comparative value of raw and cooked, ground and unground food in keeping this pig. Mr. Smiley's pig has been weighed every time in the presence of his neighbors, and we think the utmost reliance may be be placed on these statements.—*Me. Farmer.*

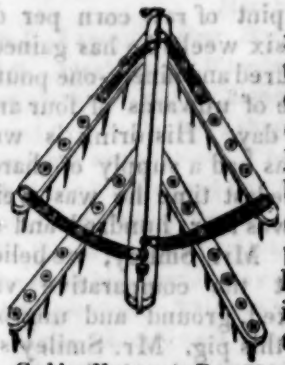
## RAISING DUCKS.

The duck, though a very valuable fowl, and usually commanding a high price in our market, has one great objection, which is that they are unmerciful gormandizers, and are difficult to raise. The eggs are usually incubated by hens.

In situations remote from water they rarely do well; their propensities being aquatic, and standing water essential to their health. Where there are ponds or streams the duck is probably as profitable as any fowl; they are very prolific, and their eggs are preferred by many to those of hens.

Meat is essential to the duck in dry situations. Where they have free access to ponds, they feed on various reptiles, and several species of aquatic grass which they find beneath the surface and which is a very excellent sub-stitute for animal food. When insects are abundant; such as grasshoppers, and the like, they require no supply of meat, as they obtain a sufficiency of animal food themselves; but when this is not the case, they must be furnished liberally or they will speedily die. Potatoes, boiled, mashed, and mixed with meal, make an excellent article of feed for the duck. They become robust when fed on it, and when they are in preparation for market it is perhaps the best that can be given them, except meat. Young ducks require great attention. Their voracious habits often induce them to eat to repletion, and many die while quite young, from no other cause than pure stuffing.—*Ger. Tel.*

☞Gen. Houston recently stated that 30,000 emigrants entered the State of Texas, across the Sabine, last year and that during the present year the number would be doubled.



Geddes Harrow.—Fig. 20.

The Geddes harrow, so called from the inventor, George Geddes, of Tyler, Onondaga county, N. Y., is considered by those who have used both to be superior to the square harrow, inasmuch as it draws from a centre, without an uneasy and struggling motion, and is of course easier for the team. The accompanying cut is so simple and distinct, it needs no description in this place. Being hung by hinges, it is easily lifted when in motion, to let off collections of weeds, roots, or other obstructions. It can be doubled back, and is of very convenient form to be carried about the farm. Some have teeth put in as in common harrows, simply by being driven in from the upper side; others have the teeth so made as to be let through the timber from the under side, with a washer below, and a nut and screw on the top; this avoids the losing of teeth, by preventing them from dropping out as in the common harrow.

These harrows are sold by Plant & Salisbury, St. Louis.

## WOOL—THE NEXT CLIP.

We published last week two articles from papers in different parts of Ohio, showing that purchasers are already in the market, in that State, for the next clip One of the articles stated and we have no doubt of the truth of the statement, that speculators in different parts of the State have already purchased of many farmers, their clip for 1851, at prices greatly in advance of those paid last.

When speculators take the field thus early we may be sure that they anticipate an advance in price greater than that which they offer.

We notice in the last Dry Goods Reporter that a considerable advance has taken place in the prices paid for domestic wool. The are not given, because no regular rates prevailed; buyers are at the mercy of the sellers, and the latter obtained their own prices. From this we infer that when the next wool season opens, the market will be cleared of the old clip—If so there will be an active demand for the new clip—a demand sufficiently active to cause a considerable advancement in prices.

Considerable quantities of foreign wool have been imported; but being principally of the coarser kind, they do not come into competition with the fine wool of this country.

We suppose we need hardly caution our wool growers against the advances of these accommodating speculators from abroad who desire to buy so far ahead of clipping time. Whatever advantages are to be reaped from improved prices, may as well fall to the lot of the wool grower as the speculator. We have not heard indeed of their success in this region, yet, but we need not expect it of them.—[Wash. Reporter.

Emery's Improved Seed Drill.—Fig. 21.

The above cut represents the latest and most improved seed planter now in use; as seen in the cut it can be used with or without a horse. Its capacities are as follows: 1st. For planting corn in hills, it admits of twenty-four variations in distances between the hills, the smallest being three inches apart, and the largest eight feet apart. 2d. The number of seeds to the hill can be varied from one to any number required. 3d. For drilling it admits of twenty-four variations, thus adapting it to every description of small seeds. 4th. It will plant any required quantity of carrot, onion, and other small seed, per acre, from four ounces to ten pounds.

Plank Road to Florisant.—We learn that a company is about being organized under the general Plank Road law, passed at the late session of the Legislature, for the construction of a plank road from this city to the village of Florisant. We are sincerely gratified at this movement, and trust it may be successfully prosecuted The Florisant valley is one of the richest and most delightful portions of the country, and this road would not only greatly enhance the value of the property near it, but as a mere investment, it will prove one of the best that can be offered. The stock will pay large dividends, which will grow larger every year. We rejoice at the spirit of improvement which now prevades the whole State. From almost every quarter of it, we hear the most cheering accounts of the zeal and energy with which the people are about to embark in the construction of plank roads. It is the best omen that has been witnessed in the State for twenty years. Success to Florisant.—*Intelligencer.*

Fig. 22.—Eagle Plow, No. 1, with wheel and cutter.

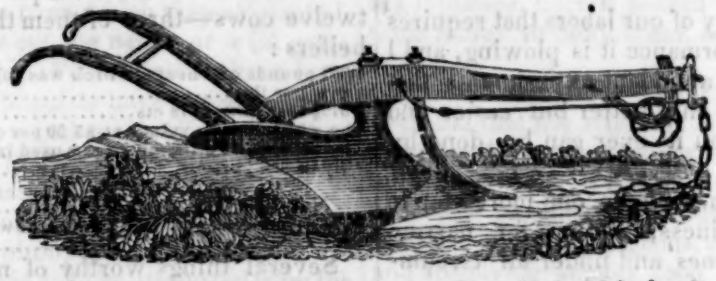


Fig. 23. —Eagle Plow, No. 2, with lock coulter, wheel, and draft rod.

## PLOWS AND PLOWING.

The editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, in a review of the first decade of the existence of that valuable journal, thus speaks of the Western Plow:

"Ten years ago, our prairies could not be plowed. The plows we then had could be made to root through our light soils, but as for *plowing* them the matter was out of the question. In 1842 the first steel moldboard for a plow was made by Mr. Lane, of Will county. The next year, Messrs. Gifford & Renwick constructed one with a moldboard made of a saw plate; and about the same time Messrs. Pearce, Scoville and Gates, of this city; Jones, of Du Page, and Bristol and Guptil, of Kane, all made various improvements in the plow. Such was the rapid progress made in the construction of this implement by these, and other gentlemen in the centre of the State and along Rock River, that all complaint has ceased for many years. The Western Plow is an entirely different implement from the eastern. It is an *invention* of which necessity was the mother, and at whose birth various artificers assisted."

While, however, improvements have thus been going on in the west, eastern plow makers have not been idle, and by various changes and alterations, they have produced implements adapted to *any soil*. The "Eagle Plow" of Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., of Boston, has been sold in this city for five or six years. At first the farmers were very cautious, indeed, but few dare give it a trial; but at the present time it enjoys a reputation, which causes a large and increasing sale.

Plows are now made to perform almost any kind of pulverization; to run deep or shallow; to cut a wide or narrow furrow; to turn the furrow to the right or the left, or both ways; to turn the sod completely over, and lay it flat and smooth as in its original condition, or to lap each slice over on to its neighbor, like weather boarding on a house, or to crumble the earth into a fine tillable condition.

Our readeas have from time to time had our views of the advantages of deep plowing, and it is not necessary to repeat them at this time. But we may say that we have been assured by several of our correspondents that lands deeply plowed withstood the dronghths of last season far better than those which received only a thin plowing.

Some time since we cut from one of our exchanges the following article upon narrow furrows. We know not the author, and therefore hope we shall not be accused of cribbing, if we do not give the proper credit:

Depend upon it the right view has at length been taken, and the pulverization of the soil by means of comparatively small plows and small furrows is to become the order of the day. This has long been known and observed in the Middle States, where flat furrowing or slap-jacking for any purpose has been condemned by "book and candle." But I wish to enquire why make a distinction between the old and new ground? yet many say, "although it is necessary that new ground should be turned

with a furrow so narrow as ten inches, yet the furrows on old fields may be thrown over wide and flat without injury to the expediting of business." Now this expediting of business sounds oddly to one who has been accustomed to witness the culture of hundreds of acres, sometimes in a single field, but where no such excuse is made for wide furrows, which are well known to be utter destruction to the crop in wet season, and a dead loss in all.

If there be any of our labors that requires care in the performance it is plowing, and I am satisfied by abundant experiments that the work is not only better but easier and quicker done than it ever can be done by flat furrowing.

In my opinion we have one more step to take in the business, and go for narrow furrows at all times and under all circumstances, debiting the crop for any extra care and labor that might have been expended in the process, and without a question that it will be ready to respond to the call.—It has been said that there is no article in the woolen manufactory that would not be more useful and stronger if made of fine rather than coarse wool, and the same argument will I believe hold good in the business of plowing--I say therefore, there is no discription of plowing that will not be found better adapted to the culture of the earth and eventually the growth of the crop, by being turned by a small furrow. I know some argue that small furrows are not necessary in autumn fallow plowing, when the land may be turned with impunity, but I know the reverse of this to be the fact, and have often witnessed the evil results arising from such practice in the hand of others —men whom I have been sometimes led to account penny wise and pound foolish—when the land has lain wet and sodden during the winter, and in no way has the spring tillage been expedited by such preparatatory labors. But the days of flat plowing have been numbered, as will also be the days of broad furrows.

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*To cure scratches on horses' feet.*—Mr. Lewis Pryon, of Erin, Georgia, furnishes the "Southern Cultivator" with the following receipe:

Wash the feet well with warm soap suds, wipe them dry, sprinkle finely pulverized blue stone over the raw places, then give a thin coat of copal varnish, turn the animal on a dry pasture or a lot for a few hours, and you will have no more trouble with it. I cured a case of long standing the first trial.

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From the Pittsfield Culturist and Gazette.

## PROFITABLE COWS.

Mr. H. D. Rood, of East Sheffield, in this county, sends us the amount of butter and cheese he has made the past season from twelve cows—three of them three year old heifers:

| | |
|---|---|
| 4,957 pounds of Cheese, which was sold for 7¼ cts. per lb. | $371 77 |
| 1,379¼ lbs. Butter, 18 cts. | 248 31 |
| The whey Mr. R. values at $3 50 per cow, | 42 00 |
| The calves and milk and cream used in a family of six persons, | 18 00 |
| Making a total of | $680 08 |
| This divided among the twelve cows gives for each | $56 67 |

Several things worthy of note are connected with this statement.

In the first place, the cows themselves. We have no knowledge as to the size, breed, or any of that thing, but one fact stands out in bold relief—they were *good* cows. In some conversation with Mr. Rood two years since, he spoke in the highest terms of Guenon's criterion for determining a good cow—the escutcheon marks; that the knowledge he had obtained from Guenon's book, was worth hundred's of times the cost of it. We should like to know whether this lot of cows was selected on this principle.

Again. There is something besides cows here. We have not the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Rood, or whether there is such a lady, but some body has taken very good care of the milk, after the cows had done their part, or the cheese would not have brought 7 1-2 cents, and the butter 18 cts. per lb.

We add three questions for the boys and girls in our farmer's families to cypher out at their leisure.

1st. How much more would twelve such cows cost than twelve poor ones?

2d. How much more would it cost a year to keep them?

3. How much more would it cost to make the butter and cheese so as to bring 7 1-2 and 18 cents per pound, than to make it so the buyer would get shaved if he paid 5 for the cheese, and 12 1-2 cents for the butter?

## THE GLORY OF AGRICULTURE.

From Dr. Charles T. Jackson's Address before the Plymouth County Agricultural Society.

It is the glory of your noble art that it possesses almost creative powers.

Not only has every seed been made to produce "after its kind," but also to yield still other kinds; not indeed new species, but varieties so improved that they cannot by all the skill of science be identified with the wild plants from which they originated. Who can point out the native or wild grasses, from which our cereal grains have been produced?—Botanists have suggested that they must have had such origins, but they have not been able to identify the particular species of grasses from which wheat, barley, rye, and oats, have been derived.

Our large, plump, juicy, and mellow apples, are all said to have originated from the bitter and sour wild crab apple, which differs so much from them that it is difficult for us to conceive how those rich fruits were derived from so humble an origin.

From an insignificant and almost tasteless wild fruit, originated all our numerous varieties of delicious pears.

Our large, plump, and luscious peach, would blush at seeing its dry, withered, and bitter father; and our juicy plums would be slow (*sloe**) to recognize theirs. The apricot and nectarine cannot boast of the excellence of their ancestors. The apricot is said to be a variety of the peach.

From nauseous and poison weeds have many of our garden vegetables sprung. The tender and juicy asparagus is supposed to have been, originally, a bittea and disagreeable plant, growing upon the sandy shores of the sea. The cabbage, with its head full of tender and highly nutritious leaves, was originally a weed growing in meadows by the sea shore, and the delicate cauliflower has no better parentage.

Our mealy potato belongs to the same family with the deadly nightshade, and in its wild state was an insignificant plant, with little tubers not worth digging from the earth, or creating when they were dug.

The onion was a nauseous shore plant, growing in the sand, like its relation the medicinal squills.

Parsnips, turnips, and carrots, in their wild state, were also strong, unpalatable roots, unfit for food.

From small beginnings came our plump, cereal grains, our rich, juicy and delicious fruits, our nutritious esculents, and savory garden vegetables.

Who, as it were, created wheat, barley, and rye, or put the first fruits and vegetables in the way of improvement may never be known.

The ancients ascribed these creations to mythological deities, and thus did the farmers injustice, unless indeed they meant by their fables to deify them, and exalt their labors.

I would suggest to you that it is highly probable that the wild rice of the lakes and rivers in the north west portions of the United States, which is a highly nutritious grain and very prolific, now feeding myriads of wild geese, ducks, pigeons, and other birds, and supplying winter food to the Indian hunter, might be advantageously introduced into our flowed meadows, and be improved by cultivation. The wild sea-kale† has been successfully cultivated in Europe, and is now extensively used as food.

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*The common plum is said to have been derived from the sloe. The nectarine is considered by some botanists as a distinct species; but there can be no doubt on this point. as the peach itself is nothing more than an improved, or fleshy almond, which bears a similar relation to the peach and nectarine, as the crab does to the apple, and the sloe to the plum.

To prove that the peach and the nectarine are essentially the same, it may be mentioned that fruits of both have been found on the same branch; and even an instance is recorded, where a fruit had the smooth surface of the nectarine on one side, and the downy skin of the peach on the other.—*Trees of America, native and foreign, by D. J. Browne*, P. 230.

†The sea-kale is extensively cultivated in England, and is highly valued as a substitute for asparagus. It has been cultivated by some gardeners in this country.

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From the Working Farmer.

## TO FARMERS.

Dr. T. R. Baldwin has recently made public the results of several years' investigations and experiments upon manures and the various ways of fertilizing the soil. He states that the best and speediest way to fertilize any soil is to cover it over with straw, bushes or any raw material, so as to completely shade it. The surface of the earth thus being made cool, dark, damp, and close, soon undergoes a chemica process like putrefaction, and becomes highly fertilized. This plan of fertilizing, he says, may be applied with success to any soil whatever, no matter how poor, and the result will be astonishing.—*Oneida Herald.*

The above is the kind of article which

has caused a strong prejudice against improvements in agriculture. The pracess of mulching (covering the surface of the earth with brush, straw, or any other substance.) has long been known to farmers, but they know, also, that the benefit arising does not result from the causes named above, but simply by preventing water received in the fall and winter from freezing in the upper surface of the soil, without entering it to any considerable depth, and thus rendering the surface glassy and impervious to ammonia and carbonic acid, so plenty in our atmosphere. A board placed on grass in the fall, and removed in the early spring, will cause the growth to be more luxuriant immediately under where it is covered, and simply from the causes we have named, but not from "undergoing a chemical process like putrefaction." Many farmers spread long manures on pasture lands in the fall, leaving it exposed all winter, and mistake the improved condition of the soil to have arisen from the manure sinking into the soil. The benefit so received is but slight as most of the ammoniacal and volatile, and by far the more valuable portions, escape into the atmosphere, while the short straw and other undecomposed substances act as a mulch to the surface and thus benefit the land, though not to the extent indicated by the above injudicious article. Mulching, by covering the surface of soil with salt hay and other cheap and nearly worthless grasses, is much pursued by market gardeners, which adds slightly to its fertility, while it renders the soil earlier for spring use.

## CULTIVATION OF CORN.

The following article we clip from the Cinnati Commercial, and commend it to the consideration of our corn planters:

The season of the year for preparing ground for one of the great staple crops of the west, corn has arrived, or soon will; therefore, it may not be improper to make a few remarks on the cultivation of it. Every practical farmer knows that, as soon as the spring opens, and the ground is in order, it should be plowed; but at the time of plowing, it should not be too wet—because, in that case, being saturated with water, and heavy, the furrow falls flat, and when the earth becomes dry, is but little looser than if it had not been stirred at all. It should be borne in mind, that the object of plowing is to loosen the soil, and the more porous it is made the better for the crop; hence, the soil should be made loose. There is another fact to be considered. Corn grows to a great height, with corn stalks; it must root deep. The roots of the plants always bear a relative preportion to the stalks. It is therefore of the greatest importance that the ground be prepared so that the roots of corn may penetrate deep into the earth. This can also be done effectually by rending it porous by cultivation.

If the above is admitted as true, it follows that corn ground should be plowed as deep as the nature of the soil will admit. But no general rule can be given, on account of the variety of soils and subsoils. In some sections of the country, the surface soil composed of decayed vegetable matter which has accumulated for centuries, is light, and the substratum is a compost clay, which, if turned on the surface, would bake, and injure, at least the first crop. Where it is necessary to turn up a hard pan, the ground should be plowed until the light vegetable mold is thoroughly mixed with the clay. All productive soils are composed in part of organic matter, which is found in a greater or less degree mixed with the various strata of earth, but in such different degrees that it would be folly to say at what depth the soil should be turned up by the plow.

As we have repeatedly said, a good farmer should be a chemist, and analyse the properties of the soil he cultivates. On many farms there are two, three, and even four varieties of soil, which require different modes of cultivation to produce the largest crops the ground is capable of yielding. But as the general rule in the west, deep plowing is advisable, because the substratum is rich in organic matter, as is evinced by the luxuriant growth of deeply rooted trees. Those who have been close observers, judge of the quality of the soil by the growth of the timber, and, by comparison, the kind of crop the soil is best fitted to produce. Where the roots of the trees run near the surface, the substratum is uncongenial to vegetation. Plants seek subsistence through their roots where they find it in the greatest abundance. Every settler in the west knows that in rich land, when cleared, plowing was but little obstructed by the roots of trees, while in land where the substratum was clay, it was almost impossible to plow it until the roots had rotted. This simple fact indicates whether land should be plowed deep or not. But the word deep has no definite meaning; it may

be five inches or fifteen. The latter is not too deep for corn, if the soil is rich to that depth; But as it is impossible, without a subsoil plow, to turn a furrow of that depth, we would recommend all farmers to plow as deep as possible, or as the ground will admit, and particularly in preparing it for corn. If the soil is deep, to turn it up two or three inches deeper than it had been plowed previously is equal to manuring the field, because inexhausted soil is brought into contact with the roots of the corn.

## SHRINKAGE OF CORN.

Knowing that a great difference of opinion exists among farmers, as to the loss of corn by shrinking or drying, from the time it is cribbed in the fall, till spring—say the latter part of March, I determined to satisfy myself on this point—at least so far as a single experiment could determine.

On the 23d of November last, the day on which we finished the husking, I measured two bushels of ears in a standard bushel as accurately as I could. I then weighed each bushel, found the weights 43 1-2 lbs. respectively. The number of ears, 58 in one and 50 in the other. I had one parcel shelled and got 33 1-2 lbs. by weight, and half a peck by measure, and 10 lbs. of cobs. The corn was spread in a dry, airy place, where it remained till a few days since when it had lost just half a peck or fifteen per cent. by measure and a fraction over 3 lbs. or ten per cent in weight.

This shows a difference of ten per cent, between the loss by weight. How is this difference to be accounted for? It was owing to the minute division of the water in the corn, that while we find a loss in weight that should occupy a space less than three pints, there is an actual loss of eight pints in bulk. The cobs of this parcel were accidently destroyed; so that I was prevented from ascertaining the loss of cob.

The other bushel of ears was kept in a dry airy place, and shelled a few days ago, and gave just a half a bushel of corn weighing 30 1-2 lbs.

These are the facts, as gathered from my small experiment. The corn was a variety of the white, between the Gourd seed and Flint— a mixed variety having from ten to twenty-six rows. The corn was in good condition for housing at the time we finished husking.—*Albany Cult.*

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Rice has been cultivated more than 150 years in South Carolina. It was planted there in the year 1693, and has been grown every year since hat time.

## BARNUM'S AMATEUR FARMING.

In the fall of 1849, Mr. P. T. Barnum (now well known in connection with the name of Jenny Lind) delivered an adress before the Fairfield (Connecticut) Agricultural Society, of which he had been elected President. It was quite an elaborate production, and we but do the author justice when we confess to having read far worse garbage in a yet more diluted form. So soon as we recieved our copy we noted the two passages below and determined to present them to our readers, as too good to be lost:

*Selling Potatoes.*—"In the fall of 1848," said Mr. B., "my head gardener reported that I had 80 bushels of potatoes to spare. So, of course, I directed them sold. They brought 75 cents a bushel. But, like most all small farmers, he sold the largest, and left us nothing but 'small potatoes to eat at home. But the worst is to come. In March, we had not even a dish of small potatoes. So we bonght more than we sold, and paid $1,-25 a bushel at that! My experience, therefore, is, that a farmer had better ascertain first how much he wants for his own consumption, before he sends his produce to a cheap market."

*Trimming Fruit Trees by an Amateur Farmer.*—Another of Mr. Barnum's experiments was in the horticultural line, and was related by him with such inimical good humor, that his large audience were nearly convulsed with laughter. "Having been elected President of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society," continued he, "I felt the importance of having a little *practical* experience as a farmer. Having read a little about pruning, and watched my gardener awhile, I armed myself with a keen carving knife and set to work on my own hook. My first essay was upon a lot of young cherry trees. Half an hour, and my sharp knife gave them quite a symetrical appearance, and removed all redundant limbs and sap absorbing sprouts and suckers; and I prided myself somewhat upon this first effort as a pruner, and, of course, expected suitable commendation from my gardener for labor I had saved him. Judge my astonishment, then, as he approached with a rueful countenance and expression of "Well, sir, you've done it now!" "Why, yes, I fancy I have. How do you like my work?" said I. "Like it! *Why sir you have cut off of all the grafts!!*" This was a sad blow to my farming aspirations. But as I never despair, I shall continue to go ahead with improvements, but shall be a little cautious how I use the pruning knife, until I learn to know a sprout from a graft.

"I hope the relations of my experience as a farmer wont deter many others from seeking the same employment; for if they are capable of using the pruning knife at all, I think they are capable of learning to distinguish, perhaps, at less cost than I did, the useful from the useless, and if they did not, perhaps a little sprouting, *a la mode* of our young days, might help to improve their education."

——o——

From the Ohio Cultivator.

## THE FARMER'S BOY.

BY FRANCES D. GAGE.

Oh! a jovial farmer boy I'll be,
As free as the birds of spring;
And carol my merry song of glee
'Mong the flowrets of the spring.
With a whoop who hoy, to drive my team,
Before the rising sun,
To slake their thirst in the silvery stream,
Shall be my morning's fun.

To see the hungry porker fed,
And hear him grunt his thanks;
To rouse the calves from their grassy bed,
To shake their drowsy flanks.
To draw from the generous cow her store,
With young hands strong and free,
Till the brimming pail is running o'er
With the foaming luxury.

To haste to the garden with hoe and seed,
While the dew is on the spray,
To plant, to trim, to hoe, to weed
The morning hours away;—
To raise the flowers for the honey bee,
With their petals bright and fair;
Oh! I love the budding flowers to see
In my garden here and there.

Or away to the fields with the reapers hie,
And toil the live long day—
And think of the happy time when I
Shall be a man as they,
To plow, to harrow, to plant and sow
The rich and fertile lands;
To reap and bind, to pitch and mow
With strong and willing hands.

Oh! I would not live in the crowded town,
With its pavements hard and grey,
And its lengthened streets of dusty brown,
And its painted houses gay;—
Where every boy his ball may bound
Upon his neighbor's dome,
And every shout and every sound
Disturbs some other's home.

The squirrel that leaps from limb to limb,
In the forest waving high,
Or the lark that soars with its matin hymn,
Is not more free than I.
Then give me the trade of a farmer boy,
From the city trammels free,
And I crack my whip, and cry "who hoy,"
Oh! a farmer boy I'll be!

## SCALDING MILK.

I noticed in your paper of September 25, an article under the above caption which states that in Dovonshire, England, milk is scalded as soon as taken from the cow, &c. This I think is not exactly correct, but cannot state, for certain, what is done in Devonshire; but in Cornwall, the county next adjoining, the process is, to strain the milk in pans of about two and a half gallons, and let it cool in the dairy.—Some of these daries are so constructed as to have a small stream of water to set every pan in to cool. It should be cooled before scalding; the milk taken at night is scalded the next morning; that taken in the morning, in the afternoon. Care must be taken to place the pan over a slow fire, so slow that it would take from thirty to forty minutes to bring it to a scalding heat, which can easily be ascertained by noticing a slight swell in the milk. It is then taken from the fire and set away to cool, as before. The cream is taken off in twenty-four or thirty hours from the time of milking, as needed. Cream from milk thus managed is delicious—too good to talk about—and so rich and thick that I have seen a common dinner-plate laid in the pan on the cream without breaking the surface of the cream.

——o——

*Water Proof Wagon Tent.*—To every gallon of spirits of turpentine put two and a half pounds of beeswax; generally speaking it will take two gallons to a wagon tent for a six-horse wagon. Boil well in the same pot. Have a large iron pot close at hand with a little fire under it to keep it warm, put the tent in, pour on the mixture with a tin cup, raise up the tent and turn it over frequently, punch and stir it about with a stick rounded at the end. When every part is saturated put it on a line or fence to dry, and you will have a tent that will be more than double as durable as any other, and will turn every drop of water—will keep your wagon dry, thereby save you enough in doctor's bills to pay for fifty wagon tents of the kind. By using white beeswax, and lessening about half the quantity of wax, you may render leggins or wrappers, coarse over-coats, capes, umbrellas, &c., perfectly water-proof, without injuring the material of which they are made, in the least.

*Scientific American.*

From the Working Farmer.

## POTATOES AND TOMATOES.

It is not so generally known as it deserves to be that the tomato, when grown among corn, is far superior in flavor to those produced in the common way. They must of course have a fair chance of room to grow, and not be too much crowded by the corn. Those who can appreciate the good qualities of this vegetable when in perfection will find that mode of growing them to secure all they can ask; at least such has been my experience.

It is maintained by some respectable experimenters, that potatoes planted among corn are not so liable to rot; and this opinion has been confirmed by a sufficient number of trials to render it worthy of attention.

The soundness of potatoes in these cases, and the superior flavor of the tomatoes mentioned above, are probably owing to the same cause, which is that corn, from its superior power of attraction and assimilation, appropriates to itself the soluble nitrogenous matters contained in the soil, and thus prevents the less energetic plants in its neighborhood from absorbing those compounds of nitrogen which experience has shown to be injurious to the quality of their products. The best potatoes are thsse which contain the largest proportion of starch, and this is but carbon and the constituents of water in another shape. Azotized manures, which are found so essential in the cultivation of grain, are, on the contrary, detrimental when absorbed into the circulation of a plant which does not require them for the perfection of its product, and which is in fact, unable to digest snch concentrated nutriment. Every one knows how much inferior the sweet potato becomes when grown on clay soil; and Liebig speaks of a peculiar kind of turnip, which under the same circumstances, loses all the good qualities for which it is noted when cultivated in sandy land.

Those plants in which compounds of carbon predominate may be said to form a lower grade, in the scale of vegetable life, than that occupied by those containing more nitrogen. The former are unassisted products of nature—the forest and the wild grasses with which a fertile country is covered, before the busy hand of man has entered upon its labor; and the latter are the golden harvest which his skill and industry secure, to increase his comforts or add to his wealth.

A portion of nitrogen is undoubtedly necessary to all vegetables, but it is equally certain that we sometimes apply more of the substance than is required to produce the best results. If we admit, with Liebig, that "plants absorb all the soluble matters present in the soil, as a sponge absorbs water, with all that it contains in solution indiscriminately," we must be impressed with the importance of adopting the supplies of food to the necessities of the plant, and of withholding as far as possible, that which is useless or detrimental.

It is said of the Chinese that they manure the plant more than the soil; and certainly to do this understandingly and effectually, implies the perfection of the highest accomplishment within the ambition of a scientific farmer.

## PAINTING.

The Dutch who are celebrated as a people for their industry and economical habits, have a maxim, it is said, that "painting is no expense." This, doubtless, is true. A coat of paint on woodwork, exposed to the atmosphere, tends greatly to preserve it, and as paint, when of good quality and well put on lasts unimpaired for years, the extra durability it confers upon the substance it is designed to protect, goes no doubt, a great way toward defraying the expense. All houses should be painted. White is the pest color, especially in hot climates, all dark colors having a strong tendency to absorb caloric, or the matter of heat, and by so doing to render houses much hotter than when painted with pure white which reflects the heat. One story houses which have had their roofs painted with coal or tar, or some other paint of a dark color, are generally insufferably hot.

The out buildings on a farm ought for economy's sake if nothing more, to be painted. Any structure that has cost money, ought to be preserved by every possible means. White washing the walls of sheds, and fences gives a very neat and tasty appearance to an establishment, while the wash retains its brilliancy, but as soon as that is gone, the aspect is unpleasant. If a farmer possesses the means, by far the most

judicious method is to bestow a good finish, and protect with a coat of paint. Durability is a prime quality in farm buildings, and they who expend their money in furnishing good structures, at first, escape the heavy expenditures which cheap edifices entail on their owners for annual repairs.

Paint applied to the farming utensils, such as plows, wheels, carts, &c., well repays the cost, it preserves the wood, and a well painted, neat looking instrument is always used with much greater care and circumspection, than one that is not. The cost is a mere trifle, and sarcely worthy of being taken into account, if we contemplate the utility of the process.—*Germantown Tel.*

From Moore's Rural New Yorker.

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF STRAW.

In most of the wheat growing regions it is rather difficult to work all the straw into the mamure yard, owing to the fact that, grain growers do not find it profitable, to keep large stocks of cattle, either for the drover or for dairy purposes. It is not uncommon to observe large stacks in the yards, and in the fields where threshed, lying over from year to year without decomposing, or in any way proffiting the owner. It is found that any of the winter grains sown on a flat hard rolled surface and covered about three inches deep with straw, vegetate and pass through all its stages to the perfection of its seed with great strength, standing the winter well and giving a large yield.—Straw thinly and evenly distributed over a field sown in the usual manner, connot but be an assistant and protector of the young plant.

Its operation is decidedly beneficial to pastures and meadows when thus distributed, and although we are no great admirer of top dressings with manure, yet straw being almost entirely composed of the woody fibre and the silicate of potash, which is not volatile, the staw in rotting and losing its fibrous nature becomes and forms a mass and soil exactly the counterpart of the original virgin soil of the forest.

A very great saving and benefit will be derived by distributing the overplus straw that cannot be used for bedding in the stables, and properly converted in the yard, on new clover fields and old, or any age meadows.

In the spring, after the danger is over that mice in winter are apt to inflict on fruit trees, straw may be put around all the trees of the orchard, two feet deep, and over a space as large as their branches extend. It has the effect of killing all the grasses, keeping the earth open and free and moist, and in decaying furnishes the very best kind of manure for the tree. It is in effect the process of mulching.

This we have often practiced with the most palpable advantage. It must be after the snow has left in the spring, and in the fall perhaps, hoed away from the bole of the tree, to destroy the chance of mice finding a harbor.

From Moore's Rural New Yorker.

## SMALL FARMS.

A small farm may be made to supply all the rational wants of a large family, by the due exercise of industry and economy. One is surprised to find how much luxury in fruits and flowers— how much of real substantial good living, may be produced on an acre of well cultivated land. Such an orchard-garden may be made to furnish a plentiful supply of the best varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums, quinces, cherries, currants, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, &c.,—some one or more of which may be eaten every day in the year, not to mention the delicious preserves for which they furnish the material.

Who would wish for a more propitious climate, when here he may enjoy these rich bounties by the exercise of proper care and labor; or who would desire to mingle in the scramble for wealth and ephemeral honors, when he may here preside sole monarch of his little domain, ministering to each of his subjects its due proportion of care and enjoyment.

To supply the more substantisl wants of a family—food, clothing, &c.,—will require only a few adtional acres; two in wheat, two in corn, and one in potatoes, and a few acres in meadows and pasture will suffice. Verily how rich the farmer is, and how happy he may be. Rich in the pure fresh air and light of heaven—in the calm quiet of his labor and his rest, and in the possession of a substantial independence.

Those that are trained up to nothing are likely to be good for nothing.

## THE GARDEN.

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal:

Geetlemen: A little more than a month ago, the following article appeared in one or more of our city papers:

"Productions of seven-eighths of an Acre of Land.—I have just seven-eighths of an acre of land where I reside. Upon it there is a small but comfortable dwelling-house, wood-house, carriage-house, smoke-house, and barn, a wood-yard, barn-yard, and a lane five rods long from thence to the road; also a front yard, four by six rods. By this time, perhaps, the reader is about ready to say, well, this about occupies your seven-eighths of an acre. But I have also a garden upon this same seven-eighths of an acre, from which I raised the summer past, all the onions, squashes, cucumbers, tomatoes, pototoes, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, asparagus, pie-plants, beets, muskmelons, beans, peas, and cabbages, that were wanted for my family use (a family of six persons besides workmen) during the time of using garden sauce. And, after the maturity of the crop, gathered for fall and winter use half a bushel onions, seven bushels potatoes, four bushels sweet potatoes, half bushel sweet corn, and fifty fine cabbage-heads.

"I have a small nursery also upon this seven-eighths of an acre, consisting of over 2,000 trees, mostly of fine size for transplanting, comprising apple, peach, pear, plum, cherry, quince and grape trees. During the time of feasting [fruiting,] we have had raspberries, gooseberries and currants, almost without measure—bushels of each. Cherries, peaches, plums, pears, grapes, and apples, have been used as free as water; how many I cannot tell. I have sold from the same seven-eighths of an acre trees to the amount of $74 08

| | |
|---|---|
| Fruit for cash: cherries, | 6 35 |
| peaches, | 13 93 |
| pears, | 5 50 |
| plums, | 7 50 |
| quinces, | 2 00 |
| grapes, | 5 75 |
| Making in the aggregate | $115 12 |

I have put 30 bushels of choice winter apples in my cellar; and to finish off the list, have cut from 400 to 500 pounds of good hay.

"This is a correct statement of seven-eighths of an acre of land in Richfield, Summit county, Ohio. J. W. WELD."

This was read in my hearing, and freely commented upon by several persons who were present at the time, some contending that the statement could not be true. I undertook in all sincerity to defend it, believing it was entirely within the range of practical results. To settle the matter, however, I wrote, on the 23d ult., to the individual whose name is appended to the above publication, requesting to be furnished with a diagram of his little place. The two letters that follow, fully confirm the original statement, and give some additional particulars, which are worthy of notice. The sketch referred to in the letter of the 12th inst. is in my possession, and may be seen at any time. I regret I cannot transfer a copy of it to your paper. It is prepared upon a scale of one inch to the rod, and clearly defines the localities of the buildings, crops, &c., and is altogether a most interesting little agricultural chart, which may be rendered serviceable to all interested in such matters, especially to those of limited landed possessions.

WM. RICHARDSON.

*Louisville*, Feb. 25, 1851.

*Richfield, Summit county, Ohio,*
Feb. 6, 1851.

My Dear Sir:—Yours of Jan. 23d was received by this day's mail, to which I cheerfully reply. The enclosed paragraph is correct, with two exceptions—first, in the twenty-seventh line from the top, the word "feasting" should read "fruiting," (this error I believe was made by Mr. Teesdale, in the Beacon.) Second, the signature should be "J. W. Weld," and not "J. W. Weed." With these exceptions, it is true to the letter. I have business engagements that will prevent my giving you any further particulars for several days; but as soon as sufficient leisure permits, I will send you a diagram of my little place, with full particulars. It may be thought by many that the publishing of that statement savored very much of egotism; but my object was to satisfy the skeptical that a good living could be made from a much smaller piece of land than people generally supposed, and should that article have a tendency to excite to emulation, I shall be well rewarded. Doubts may still remain in the minds of some, as I am unknown in your place; if so, they can easily be removed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant, JAS. W. WELD.

To W. Richardson, Esq., Walnut street, Louisville, Ky.

*Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio,*
Feb. 12, 1851.

My Dear Sir: I embrace a leisure moment to reply to your interrogatories of Jan. 23d, more particularly than in my last. Since the question has been raised as to the truthfulness of the re-

port, I will endeavor to be as particular as I can. First, then, I have taken pains to count my nursery trees, and find—apples 1152, pears 439, cherries 251, plums 42, peaches 163, quinces 53, grapes 32, making in all, 2132. My statement was over 2000 hink I am perfectly safe in saying that 1000 of these are from 1 to 2 inches in diameter 3 inches above the ground: the most of that number from 1 1-2 to 2 inches. There are about 160 pears and 150 cherries so small that they are not yet grafted or innoculated, with tops of one or more year's growth. My standard bearing trees as follows: 16 apple, 16 cherry, 3 pear, 9 plum, 40 peach, 2 quince, and 5 grape. In addition to this there are 16 pears for standards, 6 peaches, and 6 grapes that have not yet fruited. You will peceive (if I ever get time to prepare a sketch) that standards are very thick, much too near together to stand. This is so, and many of them must be cut out this spring. I set them with a view to this, believing that they would doubly pay for themselves before interfering with each other (and in this I have not been disappointed,) and, having but little land, I desired to make the most I could of it while the trees were small. The fruit is of the best varieties, and sold for a good price. Peaches and plums, $2 per bushel; cherries $2 50 by the bushel—by the quart 10 cents; pears $1 50 per bushel, and grapes 6 cents per pound. I have used for manures, ashes and lime, but principally stable manure. About my fruit trees I have used freely common salt and saltpeter—1 part saltpeter to 7 parts salt.

My soil is a clay loam. The labor I have performed mostly with my own hands (not being disreputable for a man to labor here,) making it my business to take care of my garden and nursery myself; an Englishman a few days with a spade being all the help needed on this seven-eighths of an acre.

One other idea perhaps might be mentioned here. It is a very common remark that it is no use to set out fruit trees; it takes one's life time to get fruit from them. Fifteen years ago last September, there was nothing but gray stumps and briers on thi place. Last season I had one black Tartarian cherry that had more than two bushels of fruit, one pear that bore over six bushels, and have one apple tree that is over 14 inches in diameter, 6 inches above the ground, and 10 inches in diameter. 6 feet from the ground (about 6 inches below the first limbs.) If you have any doubt as to the quality of the fruit, just step up some evening and get some of the apples; if you think they are not fine after tasting we shall be mistaken; and if you can stay over night, we will have one of those fine cabbages for sallad at breakfast. Next summer, if you or any of your doubting friends should pass this way, you may find me, if I live, in my garden hard at work with coat off and old straw hat on. I stated in my last that the statement was true with two exceptions, the word "feasting" and the signature. Upon a comparison with the manuscript, I find two other errors. Peaches sold for $13 93, in yours it was 4. Add these corrections to the other two and it is perfect.

I have at last found time to draw a rough and imperfect sketch of the seven-eighths of an acre of land, with nothing but a carpenter's square and a pen to work with—you will of course excuse imperfections. I know of no benefit to result from this but one—that is this: it may prevent in some case such a wanton waste of land about dwellings as we sometimes see. What can look worse than to see an acre of the best land a man has around his house and barn, covered over with burdocks and other foul weeds. I believe, sir, these lines and the rough sketch with them enclosed will answer all the interrogatories propounded in yours of the 24th.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES W. WELD.

W. Richardson, Esq., Louisville, Ky.

## REMARKS FOR THE MONTH.

The gardener should now be very active, and prepare his grounds for planting and sowing the more hardy vegetables, early in this month, indeed, in this latitude, much ought already to be done, by way of preparation. In the region, stretching from the 37th to the 41st degrees of latitude, within which most of our readers reside, there may be a difference of two weeks in the season: but by adapting our remarks to a medium line between these two parallels we shall not be far out of the way for any region.

We do not think except where very early vegetables are desired, that much is gained by planting much in the garden, before the coming in of April. A week of May weather will bring things forward more than all the month of March, and seed planted before the ground is well warmed does not come up so evenly nor grow so regularly, as that planted later in the season; even if it comes up at all, which is of course, somewhat doubtful. The gardener, whether he makes his garden his sole employment, or has it as an appendage to his farm, should strive rather to have

a good garden than an early one. And particularly in heavy land, if the soil is prematurely worked, it is apt to retain traces of it, and remain stubborn throughout the season; it is therefore better to defer labor on such soils until it is sufficiently dry to crumble.

We take it for granted that every man who reads the *Valley Farmer* has determined this year to have a garden—a good garden—a garden totally unlike

"A man of words but not of deeds,"

of whom it is said he

"Is like a garden full of weeds."

If any one doubts about the profitableness of a garden, let them read again the article which precedes this in this paper, and then just inform us in what manner an equal amount of labor and care can be expended to better profit. But what was there done may be done by any man who has an acre of ground. We do not mean that every man, in every situation, can realize as much ready money as did Mr. Weld, but that in the production of necessaries, comforts, luxuries, this is by no means an unimitable example.

Having made these remarks, we will now—as this is one of the most important months of the whole year to the gardener—introduce the following directions from the *American Farmer*, for April, 1850:

*Cauliflowers.*—If your cauliflower plants are of sufficient size, you may set them out early this month. In preparing the ground for them, be sure to give the bed you allot for their growth a full dressing of manure, dig it deeply and rake thoroughly every few feet, so as to have the soil in fine tilth; your ground thus prepared, set out your plants about the same distance as cabbage plants are usually placed.

If you have no plants to set out and desire to grow some cauliflowers, select a spot of loamy soil, on a warm border facing the south, manure it with stable dung, say about two or three inches deep, and dig that in at least a spade deep, rake as you go so as to pulverize the soil, then spread thereon about an inch in depth of well rotted manure, rake that in freely, then sow your cauliflower seed, rake them lightly and pat the earth with the back of your spade. Should the weather prove dry, water so as never let the plants suffer from drought. This attention to watering must be attended to in their after culture, as there are but few vegetables so liable to injury from drought as is the cauliflower. Occasional waterings of soab suds improve their growth wonderfully, so will soot-tea, made in the proportion of one gallon of soot to ten gallons of water.

*Setting out Cabbage Plants.*—If you have been provident enough to provide yourself with cabbage plants, set them out early this month. In the first place, select a suitable bed of deep loam manure it heavily, dig it up nicely to the full depth of the spade, being careful to rake it well as the spring progresses. Then set out your plants about 2 feet each way, keep them clean and water in dry seasons, and you cannot fail to have an early supply of collards and well headed cabbages.

*Sowing Cabbage Seed.*—If you have no early plants, prepare a bed as we have advised for cauliflowers, and sow two or three kinds of early cabbage seed; water the plants in dry weather and they will be fit to transplant in five or six weeks. The earlier the better you attend to this; if possible, get your seed sowed the first week in this month.

*Peas.*—Drill in a few row of peas the first of this month, and continue to do so at intervals of a week throughout the month.

*Brussels Sprouts.*—Prepare a bed of good loamy soil, by manuring heavily, dig in the manure a spade deep, rake well, then broadcast pretty liberally with a compost formed of 7 parts rotten manure and 1 part ashes, rake that in pretty thoroughly; then sow your seeds, rake it lightly, and roll or pat the bed with the back of a shovel or spade,—and in two months you will have a plentiful supply of most delicious sprouts or greens either for table or market.

*Brocoli.*—Prepare a bed as reccommended for Cauliflowers and sow Brocoli seed.

*Beans.*—Plant beans, of kinds, during this month. If their planting be timed at intervals of a week, during this and the ensuing month, a continuous supply may be secured throughout the season.

*Radishes.*—Sow Radish seed every few days during the month.

*Lettuce.*—The same advice as given for Radishes will answer for Lettuce.

*Small Salading.*—Sow the seeds of all kinds of small salading early this month, and continue to do so throughout the month at intervals of a few days.

*Spinach.*—No one should consider his garden complete without having a compartment devoted to the culture of this excellent vegetable. Its effects upon the system are cooling, refreshing and gently aperiant, while its flavor and taste is as generally approved; and what is still a feather in its cap, if we may so express ourself, is the fact

that it may be eaten by persons in sickness, while most other vegetables are prohibited.

The neatest way of growing it, is to cultivate it is in drills, about half an inch in depth, nine inches apart. The seed should be sown thin; and when the plants are a few inches high; they are to be thinned out so as to stand about six inches asunder. They must be kept clean with the hoe and hand. Sow early this month, in a bed well manured and well prepared.

*Strawberry Beds.*—If your strawberry beds have not already been attended to, forthwith have them neatly cleaned of weeds and runners; manure between the rows with well rotted manure, which should be raked, and have a covering of long straw placed over it, for the treble purpose of keeping down the growth of weeds, maintaining moisture in the soil, and preserving the fruit from grit. While your vines are in blossom, have a care that they do not suffer from drought. To prevent this, it will be well in dry weather to water them freely about three times a week. If you desire fine large berries, add a gallon of soot to thirty gallons of water, and water them with the decoction, taking care always to hold the nozzle of the watering spout sufficiently low to avoid touching the flowers. The best way to prepare this decoction of soot, is to tie the soot up in a bag. In this way you may fill the barrel containing the soot up a second time.

*Asparagus beds..*—If you have not done so already, give your asparagus beds a top dressing of manure, which should be be forked in, then strew salt over the bed, so as to whiten the entire surface. Salt is one of those ingredients on which this root delights to feed, and is never applied without resulting benefits.

*Gooseberries—Currants.*—Either the bushes or cuttings of these may now be set out; the sooner the better.

*Egg-plants.*—The seeds of this vegetable for a *late* crop, should be sown very early this month. Select a spot on a warm border, manure it liberally, dig it deep rake it fine, and sow the seed thinly, rake them in lightly and pat the earth with the back of your spade. When the plants come up, should the weather prove dry, water every second or third day. In six or seven weeks the plants will be ready for transplantation.

*Setting out Tomatoes.*—If you have plants set them out the first good season after the weather shall have become settled, the sooner the better; plant them three feet each way, in ground that has been heavily manured and well worked, both as regards plowing and harrowing. After your plants become well set, dust them freely with ashes and plaster equal quantity of each. If the weather should prove dry, water the plants every other day; and in cultivating them be sure to keep down the growth of every thing like weeds and grass, until the vines begin to bloom, when they must be left undisturbed to fruit.

*Sowing Tomato Seeds.*—In the first week of this month, select a good piece of loam on a border facing the south, and sow tomato seed for a late crop. Manure and prepare the ground well, and treat the plants as advised for cauliflowers. Should the plant assume a sickly hue, treat them to a decoction made thus: put a half a bushel of horse dung into a barrel, fill that up nearly with water, then put a pound of sulphur and half a gallon of soot into a bag, sink that in the barrerl, and after letting it stand a day, water the tomato plants, with the liquor; this barrel will bear filling up two or three times.

As you set out your plants, immerse the roots and stems into a mixture made into the consistency of cream, out of two parts soot and one flour of sulphur. This will not only ensure healthful action to the growth of the plants, but secure them against the attacks of the cut and grub worms, which so frequently undo in a night what man has done the previous day.

*Carrots, Parsnips, Beets.*—Drill in some rows of each of these roots at the beginning of this month for early use—your main crops for winter consumption had better be delayed until the beginning of next month.

*Celery.*—Prepare a bed and sow celery seed. Select a good rich loamy spot, manure it liberally and dig and rake it well; then sow the seed, rake them in lightly and pat down the earth with the back of a spade or shovel. Treat the bed to frequent waterings both before and after the plants come up. It is important to the germination of the seed that the ground be kept moderately moist.

*Sowing Onions.*—If you did not sow onion seed last month, do so the beginning of this. Select a mellow loamy bed, cover it about two inches deep with well rotted manure, dig it in a spade deep, rake finely as the work progresses. This done, lay off your bed, into beds 4 feet with alleys 1 foot wide between them, make drills 1-2 inch deep, sow your seed and cover with the rake. Should the weather be dry, water the beds to force the germination of the seed, so also in times of drought, water the plants during their

growth, and you will not fail to have mild, well sized onions.

*Leeks.*—The seed of this vegetable should be sown early this month.

*Seed Onions* should be set out early this month.

*Garlic, Shallots, Chives.*—These should be planted in the beginning of the month, the earlier the better.

*Sage* and *Thyme* may be planted out or the seed sown in the beginning of this month.

*Early Turnips.*—Prepare a bed by manuring it with well rotted manure, dig it in a spade deep, rake as the work proceeds, that done, top dress with a compost formed of six parts rotten manure and 2 parts ashes, rake that well in, then sow Early Dutch, Early Stone or Early Queen turnip seed, rake it lightly in and press down the ground with the back of a shovel. When the plants first come up, sprinkle fish oil over them and dust them with plaster every morning until they get into the rough leaf, and you may calculate upon a good bed of early turnips. Should the plants stand too thick, thin them out so as to stand 6 inches apart, and give them two or three workings with the hoe.

*Salsify*—Prepare a bed by manuring, digging and raking, and sow a few rows of this excellent root.

*Parsley.*—Sow the seed of this pot-herb early this month.

*Rhubarb or Pie-plant.*—You may set out the plants of this vegetable or sow the seed during the first ten days of this month.

*Horse Radish.*—In the beginning of the month set out a bed of this excellent condiment.

*Artichokes.*—Make new plantations early this month.

*Potatoes.*—Early this month plant a bed of this excellent root.

*Okra.*—Sow the seed of this vegetable between the 1st and 15th of the month.

*Red Peppers*—About the 20th of this month sow your pepper seed.

*Cucumbers and Squashes* may be planted the last week in this month in the open ground.

*Raspberries.*—New transplantations of raspberries should be made early this month.

*Garden Fruits.*—Any pruning necessary may be performed in the beginning of this month.

*Grapes.*—Cuttings may still be planted, so also may grape vine roots be planted out, provided both the one or the other be done in the beginning of the month. The best manure for grape vines would be a compost formed of 4 parts mould 2 parts ashes and 5 parts bone shavings or bone earth, to be thoroughly mixed together.

*Evergreens* may be taken up and transplanted during the first week in this month, they must be well supplied with water during the season.

*Shrubbery* of all kinds may be transplanted during the first ten days of this month. Care must be observed in watering them in periods of drought until they are completely set and commence growing with strength.

*Seed Beens*, of all kinds, should be often watered, let the watering be moderate.

*Pot Herbs, Medicinal Herbs*, of all kinds, may planted out, or the seed sown, any time between the 1st and 15th of the month.

With the preceeding directions we commit the care of the farmers' gardens to the care of their excellent helpmates, knowing full well that all that can be achieved by well directed energies will be accomplished by them; for it is not in the nature of woman to neglect anything in which the comforts of the family may be concerned.

## THE ORCHARD.

### CLEANING THE BARK OF FRUIT TRFES.

This is the time for applying a strong solution of soda in water, to the trunks and branches of fruit trees, &c., by which the extraneous scurf, fungi, etc., will be decomposed before the tree commences to enlarge by spring growth. The dried portions of old bark will be thrown off during the growing, while insects in their incipient state will be destroyed. An animal with a dirty skin cannot part with offensive gasses by insensible perspiration, and therefore sickens, nor is this less true of a fruit tree. Old rigid bark prevents proper organism as the tree becomes unhealthy and deformed; but if the bark be softened by a saturated solution of soda, even a misshapened tree will resume the rotund form and regain its vigor. Peach, plum, and cherry trees seldom exude gum when thus treated; the soda prevents the depredations of insects, or the formation of new fungi during the wet and early spring. Gooseberries and other bushes are improved by similar treatment. Apple trees, which have been neglected, should now be manured; the ash of the bark and leaves of the apple tree contains 15 per cent. of lime, and therefore in old orchards it should be applied freely. Where the soil is short of organic matter

the lime should be added, after the addition of muck or other organic substance, but if this was neglected in the fall, it should now be done. It should be recollected, also, that the apple cannot mature unless the soil is fairly supplied with phosphoric acid, potash, soda, sulphuric acid and chlorine, and all these, with organic matter, is most easily supplied thus:

Dissolve bone dust in sulphuric acid, decompose common salt with lime, forming chloride of lime and soda; throw these upon muck, swamp mud, or any other organic matter and you will have all the constituents of the fruit which are likely to be missing from the soil, ready to afford a supply. With such treatment, apple trees will pay a profit and without it they can only pay in soils of more than ordinary excellence.—*Working Farmer.*

## THE ORCHARD.

Few know the real value of an orchard. Any one who has a lot of ground may have fruits at very trifling expense. Perhaps, there is less labor required, and evidently there is less outlay of money, to have an abundance of fruits, than almost any product of the farm or garden. Trees once planted, will need but little labor to prune and preserve in a healthful, bearing state, for many years. Indeed, many kinds will last an age, and yield a profitable crop every year.

Nothing is better for a family in summer and winter than ripe fruit. It contributes to health, and very much to comfort. Also the orchard may be made valuable for the purpose of raising stock. Swine, particularly, are benefitted by every kind of fruit.

*Situation of Orchard.*—Peaches on the "hills" are generally best; but be careful if possible to have a northern exposure. The soil for any kind of fruit should be deep, but it is not very adviseable to have it very *fat*. A gravelly location is generally best for most fruits.

*Putting Out.*—From twenty to thirty feet in distance for peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums; and from 25 to 40 feet will answer according to the soil, for apples and pears.

Throw out a circular pit, two spades deep, and at least three feet in diameter, put some good compost at the bottom, then set in the tree and first endeavor to place it in contact with the roots as nearly as practicable the same kind of soil in which the tree grew. Fill the balance of the pit with compost suited to the kind of fruit to be grown. Experience and a little science might be slipped in to a great advantage here.

No tree should be inserted more than an inch or two at most, lower than it grew in the nursery.

Press the soil gently about the roots, and if the trees are tall and there is danger of being injured by the wind, tie them to a stake.—[Selected.

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Insects Destructive to Peach Trees.—Among other things which blight the prospects of the peach growers is a small green grasshopper, that lives upon the leaves, eating small round holes, from August until the first heavy frost. They commence a cricket-like noise soon after sunset, and continue through the night.

The female punctures the young bark with a sting, like a locust, and deposits a small transparent egg of an oblong shape, and closes the office with a kind of gum from her mouth. These eggs hatch out in April, leaving a hole from which the peach gum exudes, and a small dead spot under the bark. The grub is a small white worm, somewhat resembling the common peach worm, only much smaller. Is it possible this can be the cause of the yellows in peach trees? It is a subject worthy of investigation.

## PEACH TREES

The peach trees is frequently injured and in many instances, the forthcoming crop is completely destroyed by the recurrence of cold freezing weather after the trees have budded. An excellent plan, and one that has been very successfuly applied, is to cover the ground, when frozen, with straw or rubbish around the trunk and let it remain until the spring frosts are over.

An excellent farmer in Ohio, made $3000 in one year from peaches, because every body lost their crops by hard freezing weather. His plan was to cover the roots of his trees, for a yard or two around the trunk with straw, to the depth of six inches; preventing the frozen ground from thawing until he removed the straw when the ground thawed, the sap rose, and the trees bore an abundance of fruit.

Another plan which is said to be very successful, when a person wishes to preserve a few choice fruit trees, is to put a large tub of water under each tree, and some say, tie a woolen thread a branch of the tree, and let the other end of the thread be immersed in the water. Now so long as there is water in the tub *not frozen*, the fros

will not affect the tree, and the fruit is preserved. In many locations it may not be too late now to try the experiment.

## TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES

Taylor's Method.—It matters little as to the time, (after the first frost in the fall, and before the buds open in the spring,) if the work is well done. Having obtained trees, keep their roots moist until proper holes can be prepared; dig them not less that eighteen inches deep and four feet square, place the soil and subsoil separate, using only the top soil, to which, if not good add well rotted manure or leaf mould sufficient to make it of good tilth. Fill the whole until the tree will stand no deeper than formerly; after this place the roots in their natural position, and pack the fine mould close among them; then proceed to fill in the earth until the hole is nearly full, now pour a gallon or two of water in to settle the earth still closer about the roots; and finally fill up until a mound is raised three or four inches around the tree, so that when the earth settles, there may be no hollow left. If the mould is filled closely amoug the roots, and well watered, there will be no need of treading down with the foot. Place a stake some five feet long, (which is best done as the tree is set,) to which tie the tree remembering to cross the band that the tree may not rub against the stake; remove any litter that may induce mice to harbor near and gnaw the bark during the winter. When the frost is out in the spring, mulch the trees well, by placing as much litter as you can carry around each tree, which secure by spreading some soil thinly over it. This is very necessary to guard against our frequent droughts.

Trim your trees till there remains about one-third of last season's growth, and for after pruning, we would advise to give but little, and the first season none, that the side shoots may strengthen the stocks. Keep the ground cultivated between the trees on summer crops, and permit no grass to grow near tham. Persons doubting the necessity of our method of transplanting, have only to give it a fair trial in the contrast with any other, and we feel assured that they will find it in the end much the cheapest. Large holes we consider indespensible to secure a quick return for the outlay. Thirty-three feet is considered a suitable distance to plant apple trees, but when there is much room we would advise forty feet for apple, and place peach trees in the centre. Pears and cherries may be planted twenty or twenty-five feet apart. To secure the life and health of the peach trees, shorten them, in every spring, by cutting off at least one-half of the previous year's growth; while the trees are young it makes them form good heads, and prevents their overgrowth and premature decay. If this is rigidly done it will doubtless prevent the yellows, which is the disease, and not the worm, that kills so many of our peach trees. Where the worm is present, they should be taken out and ashes applied liberally.

## THE PEACH WORM.

This is probably one of the most assiduous enemies with which cultivators of this excellent and deservedly admired fruit are called to contend. In order successfully to obviate its attacks some persons reccommended removing the soil around the trunk to the depth of three or four inches and apply boiling hot water, soap suds, or warm brine at any season when the ground is unfrozen, and it is said that if the gum which oozes from the wound, and which is, indeed an infaliable evidence of the presence of the worm, be previously removed, so that the application can enter the aperture, the enemy is sure to be expelled or die. In some observations illustrative of the habits and entomological character of this troublesome insect, a recent writer says:

"Though it feeds on the pulpy part of the bark, it seems careful not to disturb the cuticle, so that were it not for filth mixed together on the outside, it would be difficult to find the depredator. The fresh filth, however, sufficiently indicates its presence. By entering a knife at that point, and slitting the cuticle, longitudinally, the establishment is soon broken up, for it is seldom four inches in length; and then we discover a white grub, three-quarters of an inch long, which is readily extracted. When it is removed the tree speedily recovers."

The peach, is this climate is, I believe, less subject to the depredations of the peach worm, than in some others where it is more extensively propagated. The trees, however sometimes suffer from its attacks, and in many instances indeed, they are greatly and fataly injured by them. I have known some cases where their depredations have caused the destruction of fine trees, before the nature of the evil was discovered or even suspected. It is always a good plan to examine the peach tree frequently, and with care as it is necessary when they do make an attack to arrest and remove them at once.—[Boston Rambler.

## EDUCATION.

Separate Education of Boys and Girls.—Parents do wrong to check as they do the outgoings of fraternal affection, by separating those whom God has especially joined as the offspring of one father and mother. God has beautifully mingled them by sending now a babe of one sex, now of the other, and suiting, as any careful observer may discern, their various characters to form a domestic whole. The parents interfere, packing the boys to some school where no softer influence exists to round off, as it were, the rugged points of the masculine disposition, and where they soon lose all the delicacy of feeling peculiar to a brother's regard, and learn to look on the female character in a light wholly subversive of the frankness, the purity, the generous care for which earth can yield no substitute, and the loss of which only transforms him who ought to be the tender preserver of woman, into her heartless destroyer.

The girls are either grouped at home, with the blessed privilege of a father's eye still upon them, or sent away in a different direction from their brothers, exposed through unnatural and unpalatable restraints, to evils perhaps not so great, but with every danger as wantonly incurred as the others.

The shyness, miscalled retiring modesty, with which one young lady shrinks from the notice of a gentleman, as though there were danger in his approach, and the conscious coquetish air, miscalled ease, with which another invites his notice, are alike removed from the reality of either modesty or ease.

Both result from the fictitious mode of education; both are the consequence of nipping in the bud those sisterly feelings that form a fair foundation for the right use of those privileges to which she looks forward as a member of society; and if the subject be viewed through the clear medium of Christian principle, its lights will become more brilliant, its shadows more dark, the longer and the closer we contemplate it.—*Charlotte Elizabeth.*

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### SITE FOR A SCHOOL HOUSE.

A school house should stand upon solid earth; not upon a sandbank or in a quagmire. The area for building should be level and airy; not in the midst of a dense population, nor yet remote from human habitations. The grounds about the house should be sufficiently extensive for appropriate out-buildings and for a play-ground. Ornamental trees, planted with taste, in and about it, would add greatly to its beauty and moral effect. A school house should be somewhat retired from the street and from the noise and bustle of business. If it be near the street, or any place of public resort, there is a perpetual temptation to idleness, inattention and mischief. If small children have no play ground but the street, they are in constant danger of being run over by passing carriages; for, when engaged in play, they are exceedingly careless and reckless of danger. Where they have a spacious yard for their diversions, these dangers are avoided. A school ought never to be kept in the vicinity of noisy shops, public houses, or parade grounds. The influence of such scenes is demoralizing. Public squares and public houses are usually frequented not only by the ignorant and vulgar, but by the profane and the intemperate. The conversation and example of such men is brutalizing.

Regard should also be had to the temperature of the place. If possible, a situation should be selected which will not be exposed to extremes of heat and cold. A site, sheltered by neighboring groves or gentle elevated hills, would be preferable. The building should be easy of access. Many of our school houses are perched upon small hills, or banks, by the road side, so that, when the road is covered with ice, there is perpetual danger of falling when going to and from the house. It is desirable, if other advantages are equal, to have the school house near the centre of the district. But if a suitable site cannot be had, so as to accommodate all in regard to distance, it is far better that children should walk a few rods farther to school, than to be exposed to unhealthy influences while there. It is better that they should walk through mud or sand, than to be located in either for the day.—*Gran. Fur.*

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Home Education.—Education does not commence with the Alphabet. It begins with a mother's look—with a father's nod of approbation, or sign of reproof—with a sister's gentle pressure of the hand, or a brother's noble act of forbearance—with handfuls of flowers in green daisy meadows—with birds' nests, admired but not touched—with creeping ants, and almost imperceptible emmets—with humming bees and glass bee-hives—with pleasant walks and shady lanes—and with thoughts directed in sweet and kindly tones and words to nature, to beauty, to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good, to God himself.

# VALLEY FARMER.

ST. LOUIS, APRIL, 1851.


REMOVAL.—The Printing Office of the Valley Farmer has been removed to No. 161 North Fourth street, between Green and Morgan streets, where the Editor of the paper will be happy to see his friends at all times.

☞Extra copies of the Valley Farmer will be cheerfully sent for gratuitous circulation to all who may desire to use them in this manner, and will pay the postage on them. Missing numbers of the first volume, except the numbers for July, August, and October, and all the numbers of the second volume neatly bound, which we will furnish at the cost of binding over the subscription price; and subscribers who may wish their numbers faithfully bound, can have it cheaply done, by sending us their numbers in good order.

## SALE OF SHORT HORN STOCK.

We would direct attention to the advertisement of Geo. Vail, Esq. of Troy, N. Y, favorably known as an importer and breeder of thorough bred Short-horns, who proposes to sell a part of his excellent herd at public auction on the 25th of June next.

We have seen portraits of two of the two bulls —Duke of Wellington and Meteor—taken when about two years and a half old. They are very fine looking animals. Meteor was awarded the highest premium for the best bull of any age, at the Fair of the American Institute, October, 1843, competition open to the United States; he was also awarded the first premium at the Fair of the New York State Agricultural Society, at Poughkeepsie, for the first class of Durhams, and also at same show he was awarded the first premium for the best bull of any breed; and also the 1st premium by the Rensselaer Co. Society. He now weighs, when in ordinary condition, 2,200 pounds.

Duke of Wellington is an imported bull, bred by Thomas Bates, Esq., of Yorkshire, England, and is the sire of Meteor. We are assured that all the stock offered for sale is of a superior character, and as such is well worthy the attention of breeders. The stock from Mr. Vail's importation of "Bates" cattle has been spread through many of the States and the Canadas, and every where its superior qualities have been acknowledged.

Acknowledgements.—We have received from the Commissioner of the Patent Office, a package of garden and field seeds, embracing several new varieties. We have distributed them among our farmer friends.

From Mr. John Wilkinson, President of Mt. Airy Agricultural Institute, we have received a treatise on the use and application of Lime and Marl; also a catalogue of the officers and students of the Institute for 1850; also, an Essay on the Plough, [Plow?] by Mr. W. We shall endeavor to give some extracts from the latter in our next issue.

Messrs. Plant & Salisbury, of the St. Louis Agricultural Warehouse, have just issued a very convenient little manual, being a "Gardener's Almanac for 1851, and Descriptive Catalogue of Agricultural and Horticultural Implements, Machines and Seeds," for sale by them. It will be found of great service to all classes of cultivators, particularly to amateur gardeners, who will find in it full directions for cultivating every kind of garden vegetable.

"The Duties of American Citizens: a Discourse preached in the State House, Springfield, Illinois, January 26, 1851, by J. M. Peck," Editor of the Western Watchman. This is an able discourse, in which the author takes the ground that obedience to the laws does not conflict with any claims of a "higher law."

Our Correspondents.—The Valley Farmer has some queer correspondents, who occasionally write curious letters of things which they see and hear about. Most of these letters come from men who know a thing or two, and write accordingly. Here is one, for instance:

——— ———, Mo., Feb. 6, 1851.

Mr. Editor,—A number of the Valley Farmer by chance has come to me, and in consequence I have put myself to the trouble to obtain you a few subscribers. You can send the paper to [here was inserted the names of a club of subscribers.] I feel the importance of sustaining just such a paper at St. Louis, and shall do all for you that I can, and I think if every one of your subscribers would exert themselves a little they could add greatly to your subscription list.

This is a good suggestion, and if some of our subscribers who profess to feel a deep interest in the paper, would *try* a little, much might be accomplished. Cannot every one of our subsscribers send us one more name? But here is another letter, who talks the right way:

Randolph Co., Ill., Feb. 18, 1851.

Sir,—I send herewith the following subscribers to your valuable paper, and will endeavor to send more soon, as I feel a deep interest in sustaining just such a paper as the Valley Farmer in our vicinity. [This letter enclosed the pay for 10 subscribers.]

We have only room now for one extract more. On another opportunity we intend to show up a few letters of a different character from individuals who, after receiving the Farmer two or three years, manifest their ingenuity in inventing excuses for not paying for it.

The following is from a letter from a friend who seems not to have been very successful in his endeavors to procure subscribers to our paper:

——, Ill., Feb. 25, 1851.

I have been making an effort to obtain a few suscribers to the Farmer, but I am sorry to add with poor success. * ** * Mr. —— has not yet paid me for last year, and can't afford to take it any longer at that price, he is so poor. He is one of the men that raises an hundred acres of wheat yearly, and is all the time running deeper and deeper in debt. The way he manages is to burn the stubble, straw, &c., plow light—for the horses could not stand it to plow deep—about half harrow his ground—for he has not time—harvesting ditto, and then puts up his wheat in rail pens, for he is not able to build a granary.

He goes 4 miles to cut hay on a marsh, rather than raise English hay at home. Passing his house a few days since, I noticed a buggy, two waggons, M'Cormick's reaper, two or three plows, and in fact all the farm utensils standing where they were used last, with nought but the broad heavens above them, and no shelter on the premises for any of them.

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State Agricultural Fairs.—The Ohio State Board of Agriculture have appointed the 17th, 18th, and 19th days of September for holding the great Annual Agricultural Fair for that State.

The New York State Fair will be held on the same days.

*Death of a Pioneer in the cause of Agriculture.*—John S. Skinner, Esq., Editor of The Plow, the Loom, and the Anvil, fell through a cellar door at the Baltimore Post Office, on the 21st ult., and fractured his skull; from which injury he died the same evening. The Baltimore papers lament the death of Mr. S., as a loss to the agricultural and industrial interests of the country.

*Another.*—Hon. Isaac Hill, of New Hampshire, who in his life time filled many important civil offices—Governor, U. S. Senator, Postmaster General, &c., and who was for many years editor of the Farmers' Monthly Visitor, died recently at Washington city.

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Our Advertisers.—The reader will find in our advertising department, several interesting new advertisements, of importance to the agricultural community; and among them the Horse Powers and Threshes of Wheeler, Melick & Co., and Emery & Co., McCormick's Reaper, the Smut Machine of Henry & Co., &c. See also the prospectus of that well known and deservedly esteemed family newspaper, the *Boston Olive Branch.*

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The Working Farmer, for March commences a new volume This paper should be read by every farmer, who has a desire to acquire a scientific knowledge of his business. It is one dollar a year, and each number contains 24 double octavo pages.

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The Western Horticultural Review, for March, is a superb number, and should be in the hands of every horticulturist.

No. 15 of the *Farmers' Guide*, has come to hand. About 7 more numbers will comptete the work—making two volumes of incalculable value to the farmer.

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## AGRICULTURAL BUREAU.

The Western Horticultural Review for March contains an article upon this subject, and a letter from Mr. Brinckle of Philadelpha, President of the Pomological Congress, speaking in high terms of Dr. Kennicott, *our* choice of "the man" to fill this office. The letter also speaks in high terms of Mr. Fleischman, who at this time has the management of this department of the Patent Office. We extract the part of the article that relates to Dr. K.

From the Western Horticultural Review.

The following communication, coming as it does from the East, (from quiet Philadelpha,) and written by one who was deservedly placed at the head of the Pomological Congress which recently met in our city, is a most welcome confirmation of the views expressed in the 4th number. It manifests no sectional feelings, nor can it be suspected of a political bearing.

It is presented to the reader as the unsolicited expression of opinion from one whose views should carry weight with those who so anxiously

look for the completion of this scheme for the melioration of the rural interests of our country.

*Philadelphia*, Feb. 5th, 1851.

Dear Doctor—The editorial article, in the January number of your valuable "Western Horticultural Review," in reference to the Agricultural Bureau, was read by me with unfeigned pleasure; and I fully coincide with in the opinion that Dr. John A. Kennicott, of Illinois, "is the very man" to be placed at its head. Possessing, as he does, talents of the highest order, a vigorous intellect, a discerning and discriminating mind, a fund of agricultural knowledge, and indeed every essential qualification, I most sincerely trust he may be selected to occupy a position so important to the farming interests of the country. Though I am not a "Buckeye, Hoosier, or Western man," but a citizen of a State on the Atlantic border, yet am I prepared (knowing his entire fitness for the station) to exert any little influence I may possess, in aiding to procure an apointment every way desirable. Without an able and efficient commissioner, an Agricultural Bureau would not be productive of these beneficial results which all so ardently desire and anticipate. Under the superintendance, however, of such a man as Dr. Kennicott, the value and importance of this Bureau would fully realize the most sanguine expectations of our advocates. Very truly yours,

W. D. Brinkle.

Dr. Jno. A. Warder.

Since the above was in type, another valuable correspondent, in the neighborhood of Detroit, Michigan, has written in high commendation of the views already expressed, as will be seen in this short extract:

"I am glad to see you come out for friend Kennicott for the Agricultural Bureau. I think a better selection could not be made, but I fear it will be conferred upon some political hack, for party purposes; we must, however, hope for the best, but the conduct of politicians all the world over gives sufficient ground for the fear."

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Extraordinary Precocity.—There as at present living in our city a lad, nine years of age, who speaks and writes the Hebrew, Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian languages with as much ease and fluency as he does the English. He is of humble parentage, but possesses indomitable perseverance.—*Springfield, (Ill.) Journal.*

There are several such lads in this city—some less than nine years old; and nearly every steamboat arrival from New Orleans brings "more of the same sort."

Poll Evil.—The poll evil is generally produced by a horse receiving a bruise upon the top of his head which produces a mass of corrupt flesh, that keeps continually increasing. As a ramedy for this I would recommend cutting open the pipe large enough to admit of the insertion of a piece of arsenic about as large as a grain of coffee. Wrap the arsenic in cotton and let it remain in the pipe several days. Keep the sore washed daily until cured. In order to keep the arsenic from eating the sound flesh it would be well to rub a little grease around the out edge. By this method I have known several horses to have been effectually cured after they had been given up as lost.

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## THE CENTRAL RAIL ROAD.

We learn that the company will commence the railroad at three points:

They begin at Galena, and connect with the Chicago and Galena railroad at Freeport, and go to Dixon and Peru. This is important in order to get timber from the Upper Mississippi. The road will be built from Galena to Freeport long before the Chicago road gets there.

They will begin at Chicago, and run in the direction of Michigan City to the State line, and then bend south in the direction of Danville and Shelbyville. The same terms will be extended to the Southern Michigan road that the Southern extends to the Central. The cars of both Central and Southern can run into Chicago, they paying their share of the seven per cent. that the Illinois road pays to the State, and a reasonable toll to the company.

They will also begin at Cairo, and prosecute the work with the greatest possible despatch up to the point of taking out the branch.

It is said that Col. Childs is to be the Cheif Engineer, and that the Chief Superintendant is to be the brother of the President of the company, Mr. Schuler. He is said to be the very best man for the place in the United States, and one that will allow no stopping until the work is done.

Morris Ketcham, one of the ablest financiers in the United States, and one of the wealthiest men, and the architect of his own fortune, is to be the Treasurer. He is said to be able, as also several others in the company, to build the road on his own means.—[Chicago Democrat.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

From the National Intelligencer.

### AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.

BY JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

Number Four.

Hudor is the Greek word for water. Ginomai, or gennao added gives the origin of the word hydrogen. Metron, pathos and aulos, added to hudor, give hydrometer, hydropathy, and hydraulic. Hydrate of lime is newly slaked lime, containing twenty-one per cent. of water and seventy-nine per cent, of the oxyde of calcium. Hydraulic lime is *water cement*. It was most fortunately discovered in large quantities at the very commencement of the Hudson and Erie canal, in the rock excavated for the work. Before this discovery, made by an agent who had visited Europe in behalf or the work, the calculation was to import this indispensible article from Europe. It has since been found in very numerous and large deposits, adding immensely to the facilities and the progress of the vast works of internal improvement already completed and now advancing by American enterprise. No one work, probably, made so large a demand for hydraulic lime as the Croton Aqueduct of New York.

The various uses, both in architecture and agriculture, for this material, are numberless and nameless. For most of the public works it is indispensible. For numerous domestic purposes it is exceedingly convenient. It is so powerful as a cement that two masses of stone cemented by it will sometimes break in another part of the mass before separating at the point of the junction.

The oxyde of iron, in connection with a portion of alumina, or clay, causes its great cementing power. In preparing it for use, it is burnt like common limestone. Instead of slacking, it is ground, when with a mixture of sand, it is formed into a mortar, and ready for use. Though numerous deposits of this very valuable material have already been discovered and brought into use, advancing immensely the improvements and wealth of the country, deposits still more numerous doubtless yet remain unknown. Once let each of the eighty thousand schools, and the six millions of families in our country, become an "*Exploring Agency*," to discover the resources of science and of wealth under their feet and within their reach, and numberless beds of hydraulic lime, marl, valuable ores, and other minerals, both rich and beautiful, will be brought to view and put to their proper use. Another discovery, still more important than lime, marl, or gold, will certainly be made in the operation. It has certainly been made in very numerous cases. This most important discovery, certain to thus made is that bad boys are good boys—the worst the best. Leaders of rowdy gatherings will be, they have been, very often, leaders in exploring expeditions; the more efficient for being juvenile, voluntary, and gratuitous.

*Experiment.*—Let any teacher or parent request his pupils or children to find what curious minerals they can, and the result will be the commencement of a "Geological Cabinet" for the school or the home of the young explorers.

### IRON COATED WITH GLASS.

We learn from the London Mining Journal, that at the soiree of the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, some specimens of the iron manufacturers were exhibited, coated with glass from the Smethwick Iron Works, of Messrs. Selby & Jones, near Birmingham, and which appear to be the very disideratum so long sought for. There were three ornamental dinner plates and three pieces of iron tube which was viewed with much admiration by the visitors. In the process of coating the plates, all grease is removed, as in the preparation for tinning zincking, &c. It is used on roofing, tiles, tubing of all kinds and dimensions, frying-pans, sauce-pans, kettles, cauldrons, or boilers, in lieu of coppers, and a host of other implements, domestic, agricultural and manufacturing. The article is first thoroughly cleansed in an acid solution, to free it from oxide, &c., then covered with a glutinous preparation, after which is laid on it a coating of glass, ground to a fine powder.

The article is then introduced into a furnace of peculiar construction and sufficient temperature into which the glass is fused, and the intermediate glutenous matter being evaporated the glass fills the external pores of the metal and becomes firmly united to it; and in answer to our enquiries, we were informed that as the manipulation became facilitated by practice, it was propable that the cost of glass coated materials of these common kinds, would be a mere nominal trifle more than the plain articles themselves.

With respect to the ornamental articles they of course, involve some little more complexity, but bid fair to open a field of design and novelty of much interest. 'We were shown,' says the Editor, 'some ornamental dinner-plates of the

same material, each of which was four ounces lighter than earthen ware plate of the best construction, size for size. The foliage and designs are for relief; are executed by a kind of stencilling: one color being put on, it is transferred to the kiln and fixed, and when cold another color is added, again fixed, and so on until the design is complete. From the inspection afforded us, we have no doubt, whatever, that as by practice the colors become improved and full demand over their application obtained this really elegant invention will be applied to numerous other purposes at present scarce thought of. To washstands and toilet furniture it would be applicable as also for side boards, door-plates and pannels, fire grate ornaments, and numerous other purposes in decoraring bnildings and architecture. For plates for the names of streets it would be almost indestructable and might be brought into use with much effect for ship front architecture. Among other specimens exhibited, a small door pannel, with a bunch of foliage in the center, surrounded with an arabesque border, to represent gold, which had a very pleasing effect. The invention is another step onward in the progress of science and art, and is of much interest.

## COMPARATIVE POWER OF THE STATES.

The approach to completion of the census returns enables us to give the following comparative table of the power of the individual States, as represented in the National Council, or rather of their increase and decrease of power during the last decade. The slave states are in italics.

Advancing States.—Pennsylvania gains 1 member, Illinois 2, *Missouri* 2, Indiana 1, *Arkansas* 1, Massachusetts 1, *Mississippi* 1, Michigan 1.

States which hold their own in the Union.—Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, *Maryland*, *Georgia*, *Alabama*, *Louisiana*, *Tennessee*, *Kentucky*, *Delaware*, Rhode Island.

Declining States.—*South Carolina*, loses 2 members, *Virginia*, 2 New York 1, Maine 1, *North Carolina* 1, Vermont 1, New Hampshire 1.

Florida and Delaware are properly declining States, but having but one member each of course cannot lose. In justice to the other States, the ratio of representetion should never be less than the representative population of the smallest State. At present Florida, with 18,000, has as much political power as Rhode Island, with a free population of 148,000.

New York is the Empire State in population, but her comparative increase is less than that of the whole country, and her power and influence are therefore declining.

Pensylvania is, as before, the second in the Union. She has been steadily gaining on New-York for the last 20 years, but can hardly overtake her before 40 or 50 years, before which many changes may occur.

Ohio has been in the Union 60 years, and has arrived at maturity. She trod hard on the heels of Pensylvania 10 years back, but is distanced in the comparative account, and is not likely to advance in power.

*Virginia* has been steadily falling back, and probably will be overhauled by Indiana in the next decade.

Massachusetts has gained nobly the last 10 years, and is the most active and progressive of all the old Thirteen except Pensylvania.

No State west of the mountains has lost in power.

The advancing States are three of the Slave and five of the Free.

The declining States are three of them Slave and four Free.

*Texas*, Iowa, California, Wisconsin and *Florida*, having been admitted since last census, are not classed in the above table.

The entire north gains two members.

The entire South loses one member.

The septre is gradually traveling westward. The Old Thirteen gain two and lose seven members.

New England gains one and loses three members.

The Middle States hold their own.

The eleven Southern Atlantic and Gulf States lose four members.

The other four Southern States gain three members.

The West and Northwest (of course the New States not counted) gain four members. Census.

*Alton and Springfield Railroad.*—Mr. Shipman, engineer of the above road, arrived in this town yesterday. He gives information that the road is progressing rapidly, and will be finished to Carlinville during the present summer, and continued, with rapidity, to this town. We may expect within a year to see the road between here and Alton in operation. The iron is already bought and delivered on the sea coast, and every effort is making to finish the road at an earlier day than we have mentioned.—[Springfield Register.

Who are our Aristocrat.—We take the following from Hunt's Merchant's Magazine:

Twenty years ago this one butchered, that one made candles, another sold cheese and butter; a fourth carried on a distillery; another was a contractor on canals; others were merchants and machanics. They are acquainted with labor—as their children will be after them, though it will not do to say so out loud. For often you shall find that these toiling worms hatch butterflies, and they live about a year.

Death brings division of property; and it brings no financiers; the old agent is discharged; the young gentleman takes the revenue and begins to travel—toward poverty, which he reaches before death—or his children do if he does not. So that in fact, though there is a sort of monyed rank, it is not hereditry; it is accessible to all; three good seasons of cotton will send a generation of men up; a score of years will bring them all down, and send their childred again to labor. the father grubs and grows rich; his children strut and use the money; their children inherit the pride, and go to shiftless poverty; the children reinvigorated by fresh plebian blood, and by the smell of the clod, come up again. Thus society, like a tree, draws its sap from the earth, changes it into leaves and blossoms spread them abroad in great glory, sheds them off to fall back to the earth, again to mingle with the soil, and at length re-appear in new leaves and fresh garniture.

## DISCIPLINING FOWLS.

The Chinese living in canal boats, send their ducks ashore during the day time, to earn thier living: and whistle them home at night. The last duck gets a switching: there is consequently a duck race—each one trying not to be the last.

Some years back, I kept a few fowls, and among them was a very fine large Dominique cock, that would get into my flower garden, and then call all his family about him. There was of course great scratching among them, untill I interrupted the sport by driving them off. The hens would fly in great alarm; not so chanticleer; but perching himself on the fence, he would send me a crow of defience, and as soon as my back was turned, cluck a recall to his hens.

This scene was repeated so often that at last I got out of patience with his impudence, and ran him down. When I thought that the Chinese method of drilling birds of another feather might have some effect on my prisoner; so holding by his legs, I laid him down at his favorite scratching ground, and with a light switch, whipped him across the wings. After he had been well chastised, I let go of him and arose, but he lay still, I stepped back a foot or two, when he raised his head. At a threateneng motion of my switch however, he laid his head down again. I then retreated about twenty feet, keeping my eye upon him, and holding the switch "in terrorem." He lay almost perfectly quiet during the time. Occasionally he would raise his head, but the slightest motion of my right arm, at this distance was sufficient to make him resume this very unnatural position.

Being very much amused at the success of my experiment, I held him in this position, by the power of whip and eye, for some fifteen minutes, and in the end had little difficulty in starting him off.

The consequence was a complete reformation in his moral character, and he never afterwards trespassed on grounds that were forbidden him.

Probably some of the farmer boys that read the Evening Post, may like to try the experiment; if so, let me advise them not to act cruelly towards, what ought to be, the pet of the farm yard. The lightest possible switch should be used—a blade of grass will almost answer. It is not the pain that he suffers, but the degredation that has effect.—[N. Y. Eveing Post.

London Fair.—It is said that the glass palace of London is already recieving goods, sent to it from various nations. A British lion, in bronze, from Barvaria, in Germany, was one of the first objects recieved in it. A beautiful statue of Venus so badly packed that its head was broken off, was also received. Throngs, it is said, crowd the buildings daily, and the strength of the light and frail looking galleries have been most satisfactorily tested. The whole number of American exhibitors will be 487, and the entire space required for the United States will be about 25,000 feet. Maryland furnishes 16 exhibitors.

The St. Lawrence has been ordered to return to the United States as soon as her cargo has been discharged at Soubthampton, so that some future provisions will have to be made to bring the articles back to this country.

## THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

This department will be conducted by
Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

### PLEASURES AND BENEFITS OF GARDENING.

Now is the time for the delightful employments of the garden. How pleasant to watch for the first young blossoms, and look for the first tender leaves of the vegetables as they break through the earth! And to watch them *daily*, till the leaves expand, and then to look for the full ripe vegetable; and to think that your hand planted them, and tended them, and by the blessing of God upon your labor, you can enjoy a healthful nourishment,—doubly healthful by raising it *yourself*. And to look at the beautiful flower—to remember that you planted the tiny seed in the earth, and watered it with so much care, and watched its constant growth until it has become the beautiful flower you so much admire—is not this real pleasure and innocent enjoyment? All, from the oldest to the youngest in the family can participate in these pleasures; besides, you can entertain a friend and wile away an hour or two very pleasantly and profitable in the garden. Having flowers enough for yourself, you can always have some for friends; you can send a bouquet of meaning, love, and sympathy, to such loved ones as have not the comforts and pleasures of a garden.

And *who* cannot enjoy these pleasures? All, that have a few feet of ground, from the richest farmer, who owns his thousands of acres, to the poorest cottager, who rents the little spot he tries to cultivate. These pleasures are open and free to *all*; God, the giver, will permit the earth to yield her riches and increase to all who seek it. The *poorest* are not denied *this* gift of God. Gardening will restore and preserve health. Mothers, if you want your little ones to enjoy health and look blooming, go into the garden and take them with you. Plant the seed; weed the beds; sweep the paths; do any thing and every thing that your hands find to do—and you will find yourself repaid an hundred fold in the increasing vigor of yourself and children.

Invalids, go into the garden and busy yourselves in it as much as your strength will permit. It will fatigue you at first; it may even confine you to the house for a day or two, if you over-exert yourselves—be not discouraged, but be more careful next time, and "try, try again," and it will a thousand times repay you by giving you a cheerful spirit, and in a great measure restoring strength and appetite. "*We speak that we do know*;" it is a cheap medicine—try it!

### A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

For myself I am sure that a different mother would have made me a different man; When a boy I was too much like the self-willed, excitable Clarence; but the tenderness with which my mother always treated me, and the unimpassioned but earnest manner in which she reproved me, and corrected my faults, subdued my unruly temper. When I became restless or impatient, she always had a book to read to me, or a story to tell, or had some device to save me from myself. My father was neither harsh nor indulgent towards me; I cherish his memory with respect and love. But I have different feelings when I think of my mother. I often feel, even now as if she were near me — as if her cheek were laid to mine. My father would place his hand upon my head, caressingly but my mother would lay her cheek against mine. I did not expect my father to do more—I do not know that I would have loved him better had he done more; for him it was a natural expression of affection. But no act is too tender for a mother. Her kiss upon my cheek, her warm embrace, are all felt now, and the older I grow, the more holy seems the influences that surrounded me in childhood.—

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Fried Potatoes.—The good old-fashioned dish which used to delight us in boyhood, has gone so much out of use, that the following directions for preparing it may not be amiss:—Take good sound potatoes and pare off the skins, and cut them into slices; have a pan of hot lard ready, immerse them in it, and fry them over a brisk fire until a porton of the batch becomes partially crisped; drain off the fat through a colander, and serve them as hot as possible, seasoned with a little salt only. They must be eaten hot, or they are worthless. Sweet potatoes cooked in the same are delicious.—[Am. Ag.

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Disinfecting Agent.—Rooms in which, from any cause, there arises an unpleasant odor, may be freed of the obnoxious effluvia, by placing a few kernels of coffee on a hot shovel, and allowing the aroma, or smoke to be freely disseminated. It will dispel, effectually, the most powerful odor arising from putrid animal or vegetable matter. It has been much used and with excellent success, in localities infected by cholera.

## A WORLD OF LOVE AT HOME.

The earth hath treasures fair and bright,
Deep buried in her caves,
And ocean hideth many a gem
With his blue curling waves;
Yet not within her bosom dark,
Or 'neath the dashing foam,
Lives there a treasure equalling
A world of love at home!

True sterling happiness and joy
Are not with gold allied;
Nor can it yield a pleasure like
A merry fireside.
I envy not the man who dwells
In stately hall or dome,
If 'mid his splendor he hath not
A world of love at home.

The friends whom time hath proved sincere,
'Tis they alone can bring
A sure relief to hearts that droop
'Neath sorrow's heavy wing.
Though care and trouble may be mine,
As down life's path I roam,
I'll heed them not while still I have
A world of love at home.

## "WANTED, AN HONEST, INDUSTRIOUS BOY."

We lately saw an advertisement headed as above. It conveys to every boy an impressive moral lesson.

"An honest, industrious boy" is always wanted. He will be sought for; his services will be in demand; he will be respected and loved; he will be spoken of in terms of high commendation; he will always have a home; he will grow up to be a man of known worth and established character.

He will be wanted. The merchant will want him for a salesman or a clerk; the master mechanic will want him for an apprentice or a journeyman; those with a job to let will want him for a contractor; clients will want him for a lawyer; patients for a physician; religious congregations for a pastor; parents for a teacher of their children, and the people for an officer.

He will be wanted. Townsmen will want him as a citizen; acquaintances as a neighbor; neighbors as a friend; families as a visitor, the world as an acquaintance; nay, girls will want him as a beau, and finally for a husband.

An honest, industrious boy! Just think of it, boys, will you answer this description? Can you apply for this situation?

Are you sure that you will be *wanted?* You may be smart and active, but that does not fill the requisition—are you *honest?* You may be capable—are you *industrious?* You may be well dressed and create a favorable impression at first sight—are you both honest and industrious? You may apply for a "good situation"—are you sure that your friends, teachers, and acquaintances can recommend you for these qualities? Or how would you feel, your character not being thus established, on hearing the words "cant employ you?" Nothing else will make up for the loss of these qualities. No readiness or aptness for business will do it.

You must be honest and industrious—must work and labor; then will your "calling and election" for places of trust and profit be made sure.

## THE LITTLE BLIND BOY.

A gentleman was once stopped in the streets of London by a stranger who asked him, "did you ever thank God for your reason?"

"I don't know that I ever did," the gentleman replied.

"Do it quickly, then," said the stranger, "for I have lost mine."

We are liable to forget to thank God for his common mercies, whose greatness we can never duly estimate till we have experienced their loss. Did you, young reader, ever thank God for your eye-sight? The following interesting narrative, taken from [illegible] publication, will remind you of that duty:

Once there was a good little boy in Scotland about eight years old, who took the small-pox; and when he grew better, it was found it had shut up both his eyes, so that he could see nothing. He had been such a gentle, good boy that all the family loved him, and led him about and were very kind to him. He had a little sister Annie, twelve years old, who used to find amusements for him, and when it came warm weather, she would take him to walk in the country.

One day they took a long walk, and sat down at the foot of a green tree. "Annie," said James, "what a pleasant day this is.—The air feels so soft and so warm to my face. I hear the burn racing the smooth stones, and the sheep and lambs bleat. How I wish I could see them again. Hark! there is a thrush singing over our heads. Oh! how beautiful it used to be to sit down here and look to the far away hills, and the clear blue sky, and see the mill yonder, and the pretty ducks in the pond, Ah, Annie, I

think I shall never see these things again." Then the little boy thought how dismal it would be to be always blind and dark, and felt so helpless and sad, and he began to cry, "Dont cry, Jamie," said his dear sister; "may be you'll see yet. There was Daniel Scott, you know, had the small-pox and was blind for weeks, but got well, and now he sees as well as any body. Besides, you know," said she, "God will do right about it, as dear mother says; and if he leaves you to be blind, will make you happy in some other way. Besides we all do what we can for you and I will read to you; and it will will not be so bad."

But poor James kept on crying. The flood of tears pressed their way between his eyelids, which had stuck together, and when he lifted up his head he cried out, "O Annie, I can see! There's the brook, and the mill, and the sheep! Oh, how glad I am! Annie was as joyful as he, and hurried him to return home so as to tell the good news; but James could hardly walk, he wanted so to look about him. "Oh!" said he, "how little do children know of the blessing of sight. If they had only lost it awhile, like me, they would never cease to thank God for eye-sight.

You may think how glad they all were at home. At night, when the father prayed in the family, and came to thank God for restoring dear little James, he almost wept for joy. James soon got his sight completely, and when he grew up to be a man he never forgot to be grateful to his Heavenly Father that he was not blind.

## SYMPATHETIC EDUCATION.

The development of the moral sentiments in the human heart, in early life,—and every thing in fact which relates to the formation of character,—is determined in a far greater degree by a sympathy, and by the influence of example, than by formal precepts and didactic instruction. If a boy hears his father speaking kindly to a robin in the spring—welcoming its coming and offering it food,—there arises at once in his own mind a feeling of kindness toward the bird, and all the animal creation, which is produced by a sort of sympathetic action, a power somewhat similar to what in philosophy is called induction. On the other hand, if the father instead of feeding the bird, goes eagerly for a gun in order that he may shoot it, the boy will sympathize in that desire, and growing up under such an influence, there will gradually be formed within him, through the mysterious tendency of the youthful heart to beat in unison with hearts that are near, a disposition to kill and destroy all helpless beings within his power.

There is no need of any formal instruction in either case. Of a thoushnd children brought up under the former of the above described influences, nearly every one when he sees a bird, will wish to go and feed it while in the latter case, nearly every one will just as certainly look for a stone. Thus the growing up in the right atmosphere, rather than the receiving of the right instruction, is the condition which it is the most important to secure, in plans for the forming the characters of children.—*Jacob Abbott.*

## FEMALE TACT.

When a woman is possessed of a high degree of tact, she sees, as by a kind of second sight, when any little emergency is like to occur, or when, to use a familiar expression, things do not seem likely to go right. She is thus aware of any sudden turn in conversation, and prepared for what it may lead to; but above all she can penetrate into the state of mind of those she is placed in contact with, so as to detect the gathering gloom upon another's brow, before the mental storm shall have reached any formidable height; to know when the tone of voice has altered; when any unwelcome thought shall have presented itself, and when the pulse of feeling is beating higher or lower, in consequence of some apparently trifling circumstance which has just transpired. In these and innumerable instances of a similar nature, the woman of tact not only perceives the variations which are constantly taking place in the atmospere of social life, but she adapts herself to them with a facility which the law of love enables her to carry out, so as to spare her friends the pain and annoyance which so frequently arise out of the mere mismanagement of familiar and apparently unimportant affairs. And how often do these seeming trifles—these accidental betrayals of what there would have been no duplicity in concealing—how often do these wound us more than direct unkindness.

*To Boil Hommony.*—To one quart of hommony, put two quarts of cold water, and a tablespoonful of salt; boil until the water is entirely absorbed. Take it from the fire, cover it closely and set it on the hot ashes for fifteen or twenty minutes, to soak. Serve it in a deep covered dish, with butter cut into small pieces on the top. Those who like cream with it, may add half a pint while on the ashes. It is whiter and is better tasted when boiled in a pot lined with porcelain, or in an earthen pipkin.

*Home Made Candles.*—If you manufacture your own candles, immerse the wicks in lime water, in which a little saltpetre has been dissolved, and dry them before dipping. The light from such is much clearer, and the tallow will not "run."

Population of Illinois.—From the late census returns, Illinois has a population of about 850,000, and near 170,000 more than Missouri. Unless we push ahead with our Railroads, and adopt a more liberal system of legislation, than has prevailed in Missouri for some years past, Illinois will nearly or quite double this State in population and wealth ten years hence. We cannot, if we would, close our eyes against the facts and figures which demonstrate that we must infuse some new energy into our movements or be content to linger far in the wake of other States no older than ours.—*Intelligencer.*

## COMMERCIAL.

St. Louis, March 28, 1851.

Tobacco—Lugs $4 50; leaf $5 75 a $6; manufacturing $10 50; seconds $5 15 a $5 60.

Hemp—Is active, at common $75, fair $82 and prime $85 a $90 per ton.

Flour—Market firm. Superfine country brands at $3 62 a $3 85.

Wheat—Heavy sales; 60 a 82 cts. per bushel, excluding sacks.

Corn—Firm, and rates advancing. 39 a 40 cents per bushel, sacks included.

Oats—43 a 44 cents per bushel.

Barley—Good 62 a 65 cents; choice Kentucky 75 a 80 cents.

Provisions.—Bulk meat, shoulders, $4 25 a $4 50; sides $5 50; hams $6 per 100 lbs. Lard 7 a 8 cents.—Pork, mess, $11 50 a $12 per bbl.

Bacon—Clear sides 7¼ a 8; shoulders 5 a 5½; hams 7 a 7¼ cents.

Groceries—Sugar 5¾ a 6; molasses 31 a 33 cents; Rio coffee 11 cents; G. A. salt $1 22 a $1 50 per bag.

Potatoes—90 a 98 cents per bushel.

Apples—$1 25 a $1 75 per bushel.

Butter—Ohio roll 15 cents; good shipping 12; and country 10 a 12 cents per pound.

Cheese—Western Reserve 7 a 8 cents; English dairy 11 a 12 cents per pound.

Eggs—7½ a 8 cents per dozen.

Seeds—Clover $7 75 a $8 25; Timothy $2 a $2 25; Flaxseed $1 65 per bushel.

# THE VALLEY FARMER,

## CONTENTS OF NO. 3, VOL. 3,

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